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Rajiv urges calm in St Kitts Affair

Documents correct, says bank official

Arab Times report

INDIAN political sources have revealed that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has urged restraint in the St Kitts Affair. This position is in contrast with the recent clamour for an investigation into allegations that opposition leader VP Singh deposited more than \$21 million in a secret numbered bank account in the name of his son Ajaya Singh, during his tenure as Indian minister of finance.

In the wake of the allegations which first appeared in the Arab Times, it has been widely reported in the Indian press that

leading members of both the prime minister's Congress (I) party and of several opposition parties have called for an immediate investigation into what is now known as the St. Kitts Affair.

Indian political analysts had suggested that recently weakened by the reports on Bofors scandal Rajiv would seize on this opportunity to order India's CBI (Criminal Bureau of Investigation) to commence a criminal investigation into the allegations against Singh.

Rajiv has reportedly been urged by certain advisers to order a full-scale investigation of Singh.

However, according to the political sources, Rajiv has instead pointed out that to date the Indian government has not officially received any evidence to support the recent allegations, all of which have been contained only in press reports.

According to the sources, Rajiv has urged calm and restraint until further information has been obtained.

The sources said Rajiv told his advisers: Much as it would be to my own advantage, for the benefit of Indian democracy, we cannot order a criminal investigation of a leading political candidate without compelling cause.

Indian sources have also said that George Maclean founder and former managing director of the First Trust Corporation Limited, of St Kitts refused recent Indian press claims that the documents related to the account alleged to have been held by Ajaya Singh were obviously forgeries, because they were not in the standard format used by the bank. Maclean was said to be speaking from his house in Toronto, Canada.

Maclean said that the documents are in the exact form which was used by The First Trust Corporation for such documents. Citing St Kitts' banking secrecy laws, he refused to confirm or deny that account number 29479 was held by Ajaya Singh. Maclean would not confirm or deny that he had signed those documents, but he did provide with samples of his signature and his initials, which seem to conform with certain signatures and initials appearing on the Numbered Account Agreement and on the annual statements transmitted herewith.

Meanwhile, investigation and interviews with government officials, local businessmen, banking officials, and other sources in St Kitts and elsewhere have revealed the following:

While The First Trust Corporation Ltd had few accounts many of its account holders were very wealthy. Within one year after its formation the company had taken in so much money that the banking system of the eastern Caribbean was unable to absorb all of it. Looking for outlets for the money outside of the Caribbean, the company discovered that many US banks, touchy about drug money laundering by Caribbean banks, would not accept deposits from The First Trust Corporation. Because of this, the company's management invested most of its depositors' funds in various English Channel Islands banks. Withdrawals by the company's customers were often paid with banker's drafts issued by these Channel Islands banks.

Certain Channel Islands banks, which worked with The First Trust Corporation have been identified. (See Page 2)



Everyone a winner

Hot weather notwithstanding enthusiastic Filipinos in Kuwait gathered together to watch the selection of Mr and Miss Philippines — Kuwait 89. Naser Al Nazer and Pamela Rose Rojo were unanimously chosen winners. The dapper



children pictured above the Marjan Martin who captured the Miss Metro Manila title and little Ahmed Tariq Sairat, who did not win a title but nevertheless stole many hearts. Full Report Page 9

Revenge killings in Lanka

36 die in blood tide

COLOMBO, Aug 26. (AP): At least 20 people were shot and killed in a central Sri Lankan village, military officials said today. Residents accused the military of carrying out the killings.

Also yesterday, five policemen were killed by Sinhalese extremists People's Liberation Front (JVP), officials said. The bodies of the victims, all Sinhalese, were thrown into six houses that were later burned, said the military officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

They said the killings occurred yesterday in Tirapanne, 165 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of Colombo, after the parents of a soldier were shot and killed by suspected Sinhalese radicals. Residents in Anuradhapura, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Tirapanne, blamed the attack on soldiers in civilian clothes and said it apparently was to avenge the killing of their colleague's parents. The residents, contacted by telephone, spoke on condition of anonymity.

An opposition lawmaker, Janak Mahendra Adikari, said in Anuradhapura that the Tirapanne toll could be much higher. He said hundreds of villagers had fled to Anuradhapura.

Pro-government vigilante groups and the military have been accused in the past of killing civilians during operations against Sinhalese extremists. The government denies the charge.

In another attack yesterday, six to seven homes in Katukeliyawa, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Anuradhapura, were burned by men in military uniforms, said Adikari, contacted by telephone.

There are reports of five to six civilian casualties in this attack, but we do not have confirmation," he said.

The Front stepped up its campaign of assassinations and strikes after President Ranasinghe Premadasa imposed a nationwide state of emergency June 20. The government says at least 1,000 people have died since July 15.

In their latest attacks, the radicals detonated a bomb under a police vehicle in Kurunegala district yesterday, killing three policemen and a civilian driver, the military officials said.

One labourer travelling in the vehicle also was killed and five police were injured in the blast, which occurred about 150 kilometres (85 miles) northeast of Colombo, the officials said.

They said two policemen and a wildlife official were killed yesterday in an ambush of their vehicle in Anuradhapura district, which carries the same name as its largest town.

A naval officer, a Front member and three civilians were killed in separate incidents during the past 24 hours in southern Sri Lanka, the officials said. One unidentified body also was found, they said.

At least 5,000 people have died in the Sinhalese extremist campaign, launched in July, 1987 to protest the government's peace overtures to Tamil separatists in the northeast.

Oman stiffens sheep tests

MUSCAT, Aug 26. (Agencies): Oman ordered newly stringent health tests on a consignment of 7,000 live Australian sheep arriving today, but an agriculture official said there was "no cause for alarm" that the animals might be diseased.

Laboratory examinations for bluetongue disease, sheep pox and undulant fever were to be carried out before the animals are released from quarantine at Port Qaboos, said Khanfar Khanfar, director of animal wealth at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Meanwhile, a team of Australian experts was due to discuss with Omani officials on the crisis resulting from Saudi Arabia's recent rejection of five shiploads of live sheep on grounds they were afflicted by the viruses bluetongue and sheep pox.

The Saudi claim triggered a furore in Australia's huge livestock export industry, which sells some \$174 million worth of live sheep to the Middle East annually. Saudi Arabia is the biggest customer, buying 3.5 million animals worth about \$61 million.

Asserting that the viruses do not exist in their country, Australian officials have requested that the Saudis release clinical test data to back up the disease allegation. The Saudis so far have not done so. An Australian official said Saudis have ignored the requests.

The Australians are said to believe the issue stems from trade disputes within Riyadh organisations, but have privately expressed fears that other Gulf Arab states might follow the Saudi lead in banning sheep imports.

Khanfar said Oman has never had a problem with Australian sheep and normally accepts them without health tests. "But in the light of Saudi Arabia's rejection of allegedly diseased sheep in recent weeks, we feel we must be careful," he said.

At least three other Gulf countries also have imposed tighter controls, mostly by extending quarantine periods for Australian sheep, in the wake of the Saudi actions.

Qatar today gave a clean bill of health to 35,000 sheep that it earlier had said were found to be carrying Maltese fever, another malady the Australians say does not exist in their sheep-raising industry.

DAY BY DAY

LAWs proposed for amendment at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry remain under consideration, which has been quite a lengthy task.

It is said that these amendments are being studied by the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation (Fatwa). Undoubtedly, these legal changes are of considerable consequences.

Vital issues should be accorded priority and treated accordingly — if they are not meant to be made obsolete due to delays.

The proposed amendments relate to company laws such as the holding companies and off-shore companies.

Zahed Matar

Tryst with Triton

The triumphant Voyager 2 space probe zoomed past ringed Neptune and beamed back flyby photos of its strange moon Triton on Friday showing the ancient remnants of slowly flowing ice volcanoes and a tortured terrain dusted with frozen natural gas.

As the hard-working robot raced past Neptune and then Triton, it looked back and photographed the pinkish moon as a thin crescent, almost as if bidding farewell to the known solar system after an epic once-in-a-lifetime grand

tour of the outer planets.

Part of the complex geologic history of icy Triton, Neptune's largest moon, is shown in this Voyager 2 photo of 300 miles across. It encompasses two depressions. The rough area in the middle of the bottom depression probably marks the most recent eruption of material. (Reuter wirephoto)

(Full report page 5)

Sheikh Saad returns: HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah returned home this evening after a private visit to a number of European countries.

He was received at the airport by head of the National Guard Sheikh Saleh Al Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah, sheikhs, ministers as well as a number of senior officials and local dignitaries. (KUNA)

Rail links suspended: Turkey cut all rail links with neighbouring Bulgaria on Saturday in worsening of its row over ethnic Turks. Anatolian news agency said.

Passengers to and from Europe reaching the border by rail would now have to cross on foot, the agency said. (Reuter)

Heavy European winter: The premature passage over Cyprus of a huge flock of white storks migrating south indicated an early heavy winter in Europe, ornithologist Pavlos Neophytou said on Saturday.

There were about 3,000 white storks in the flock, a huge number never experienced before in Cyprus as far as we know," said Neophytou, the secretary of the Cyprus Ornithological Society.

Another unusual aspect was the early migration of the storks and their passage through Cyprus on their way to Africa from Europe, he added.

"Such an event indicates there will be an early and heavy winter in Europe," Neophytou said. (AP)

Hotel fire kills seven: An overnight fire at a hotel in suburban Paris took the lives of seven guests and left 17 others injured, police said on Saturday.

The fire began about 11 pm (2100 GMT) in the stairwell of the hotel Hesperion de la Chapelle in the suburb of Cligny and quickly spread through the top floor of the four-story hotel, which caters primarily to African tourists. (AP)

Baig in Saudi Arabia: Pakistan's Chief of Staff Gen Mirza Aslam Baig discussed bilateral co-operation with high-ranking Saudi military officials on Saturday, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It said Aslam Baig, who is in the kingdom at the invitation of the Land Forces Commander Staff Gen Yousuf Abdul Rahman Al Rashid, was received by the Air Defence Force Commander Staff Gen. Khalid Bin Sultan. (AP)

Early Spanish elections: Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez will dissolve Parliament next week and call early elections to coincide with the seventh anniversary of this Socialist Party's first landslide victory. Spain's leading newspaper said on Saturday.

Citing unidentified government sources, the independent El Pais said the Socialist leader would dissolve Parliament next Saturday following the government's weekly Friday cabinet meeting and selections for Oct 29 to seek an unprecedented third term for his party. (AP)

Debate on cabinet: The Iranian Parliament will begin a three-day debate on President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's cabinet on Sunday, Iranian television reported.

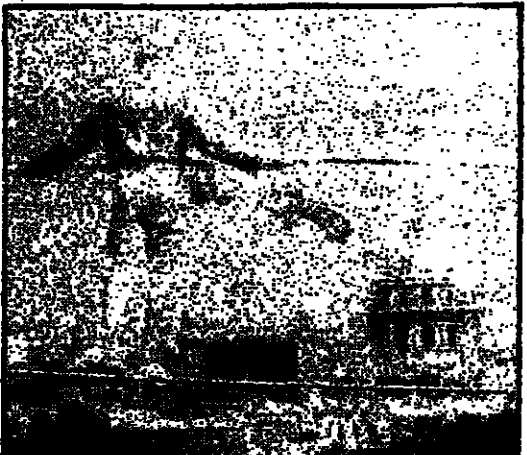
It said a total of 20 deputies would speak at two five-hour sessions on Sunday and Monday. Rafsanjani and his 22 nominated ministers would have five hours to reply on Tuesday. (Reuter)

Visit to Hong Kong: Buckingham Palace said on Saturday the Prince and Princess of Wales will go ahead with the official visit trip in November to Hong Kong to boost morale in the colony despite Britain's loss of popularity for refusing to give 3.2 million of its residents the right of abode. (UPI)

Oil depot fire: Three people sustained minor injuries in a fire on Saturday at the Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO) depot at Sitra on the outskirts of the capital, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The blaze was sparked by gasoline leaking during maintenance work on an exterior valve in a tank at BAPCO's storage farm, according to an Interior Ministry statement relayed by the agency.

The statement said investigations were under way, while "qualified authorities have discounted sabotage." (AP)



Tight-rope walker

A tight-rope walker made an unprecedented high-wire crossing 100 metres (330 feet) above the river Seine on Saturday from the right bank to the Eiffel Tower.

Philippe Petit, who said he had waited 15 years for the opportunity, took 45 minutes to traverse the 700-metre (2,300-foot) wire over the murky waters.

The 40-year-old Frenchman, who lives in New York, fought to maintain his balance against a stiff breeze and climbed a 16-degree slope in the final stretch. (See Page 11)

Soviets stabilise Lebanon ceasefire

BEIRUT, Aug 26. (Agencies): Christian Army units and Syrian troops fought a four-hour rocket and artillery duel yesterday, but a police spokesman said hostilities have diminished noticeably since Moscow launched its peace mission earlier this week.

The spokesman said two people were killed and nine wounded in the clashes. Scores of shells and rockets crashed in residential neighbourhoods on both sides of Beirut's dividing Green Line.

The new casualties brought the overall toll to 796 killed and 2,231 wounded since fighting broke out March 8 between the traditionally pro-Western Christians and Syrian troops.

The spokesman noted that the exchanges were "limited to two areas, which reflects the noticeable decrease in the intensity and scope of the shelling duels" since Soviet envoy Gennady Tarasov began his mission on Wednesday.

It was Moscow's first direct mediation in Lebanon since the civil war broke out April 1975.

Tarasov visited Syria, Moscow's chief Arab ally, where

he met with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara Wednesday. He drove to Beirut Thursday and met for two days with Muslim and Christian leaders, including Gen. Michel Aoun, commander of Christian Army units with whom Syria has refused to negotiate a peace settlement.

Tarasov, who heads the Middle East department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, returned to Damascus yesterday and was expected to fly home this weekend for consultations with Kremlin leaders.

His mission coincided with a French naval buildup off Lebanon.

Paris said it sent a six-ship flotilla to the eastern Mediterranean on a "humanitarian mission", to evacuate 7,000 French nationals if the situation worsens.

But Syria's Muslim allies and the fundamentalist Hezbollah, said the move was tantamount to a military intervention, and vowed to attack any vessel that approaches the coast.

The Soviet Union and France, the Christians' traditional protector, moved after a tripartite Arab com-

mittee announced on July 28 that it was suspending a mediation bid it had launched in May, blaming the lack of progress on Damascus.

That led to sharp deterioration in the security situation, during which Syria and its allies tried at least once to penetrate into the besieged Christian heartland.

After his meeting with Aoun yesterday, Tarasov said the Soviet Union "strongly believes there are no military solutions to the Lebanese problems."

Aoun, a spokesman said, expressed to Tarasov his "full readiness to co-operate with the Soviet effort."

The spokesman said Tarasov was working on "a formula... for stabilising the security situation and lifting the blockade" imposed by Syria and its allies on the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.

The Soviet Union is seeking to stabilise the shaky ceasefire and revive Arab League mediation, Selim Hoss, head of the Syrian-backed government in Muslim sector, said today.

"The Soviet Union is not trying to monopolise the

solution as many others who have sponsored abortive initiatives in the past," Hoss said.

"The Soviet endeavour is aimed at achieving a limited goal which is to enable the Arab League committee to resume its work and therefore clear the road for an Arab solution," Hoss said.

US President George Bush discussed the crisis in Lebanon with French President Francois Mitterrand by telephone today, the White House announced.

"The two presidents commented on the UN ceasefire in Lebanon and agreed to keep the UN spotlight on the problem," the White House said.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt today encouraged Pope John Paul II to visit not only the Christian sectors of war-ravaged Lebanon but Muslim regions as well to see the reality of the country's problems.

Kuwait's acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today said Kuwait had received and studied the report prepared by the Arab League committee on Lebanon.

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Some women cry as they wait at Islamabad airport for news about relatives on board the PIA Fokker. (Reuter wirephoto)

No sign of PIA Fokker

Search to resume today

ISLAMABAD, Aug 26. (Agencies): Aircraft searched the icy peaks and steep valleys of the Himalayas for a second day today but found no sign of a Pakistan International Airlines plane that disappeared with 54 people aboard.

"We haven't got any indication yet of anything," said airline spokeswoman Azra Sultan. "We have flown 11 search sorties today and the search parties are still on the ground since yesterday."

Five helicopters, two Pakistan Air Force C-130 transport planes and two PIA planes searched Pakistan's rugged northern mountains until dusk today, airline officials said. They were

set to resume tomorrow.

Dozens of anxious relatives gathered at Islamabad airport where the airline and the Air Force operated a joint search command.

The propeller-driven Fokker 27 was carrying 49 passengers and five crew members when it took off yesterday from Gilgit, a mountain resort, for Islamabad, a 175-mile (280 kilometre) flight to the south that should have taken 45 minutes.

Airline spokesmen said they believe there were at least two foreigners aboard, including American free-lance journalist Paul McGorrian, a former staff writer for the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times.

Poor weather hampered the initial search yesterday as clouds dipped below the 15,000-foot (4,500-metre) mountain peaks where the Himalayas meet the equally lofty Karakoram range.

Pilots reported better visibility. News reports said the pilots issued no distress call before the plane's disappearance. The reports said the captain's last words to the control tower were "I am reaching Bunji," a town about 30 miles (58 km) southeast of Gilgit.

Since 1963, at least 20 PIA Fokkers have been involved in accidents, five of them fatal, prompting calls for the more than 10-year-old planes to be replaced.

Glacier reveals

COURMAYEUR, Italy, Aug 26. (UPI): The slow-moving Mont Blanc glacier has surrendered more pieces of an Air India plane jet which crashed in 1966 with 117 people aboard, an alpine official said today.

But it could be another decade before the glacier, advancing at a rate of 250-300 feet (80-100m) a year, yields up the fuselage of the Boeing 707 jet, its passengers and crew, he said.

"Bit by bit, the heavier pieces are coming out," Renzo Corson, alpine rescue service chief in the northern Valle d'Aosta region of Italy, said.

The Air India jet crashed in fog near the peak of the 15,845-foot (4827-m) Mont Blanc on Jan 25, 1966, with 177 people aboard. Some bodies are still trapped in the frozen river of ice.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Approval urged: A Wisconsin company asked a US Food and Drug Administration panel for approval to market a female condom that would protect women from the AIDS virus, but the panel is proposing that the device first be tested as a contraceptive.

In a hearing before an FDA panel on medical devices, Mary Ann Leeper of Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Co. said the device developed by the company is the only one that women can control themselves to protect against the AIDS virus and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The device displayed by Leeper resembled a sock made of polyurethane, a tough, clear, flexible plastic. There are soft, flexible rings at both ends. (AP)

Paper appeals: A Moscow newspaper appealed to its readers today to help police find a French millionaire art dealer of Armenian origin who disappeared last month from his hotel.

Moskovsky Konsolets published a small black-and-white photograph of the man, Garabed Basmadjian, with personal details and a description of what he was wearing when he was last seen on July 29.

It gave a Moscow telephone number to call for anyone with news of him.

Basmadjian arrived in Moscow on July 21 for a visit at the invitation of the Soviet Ministry of Culture. Eight days later he walked out of the Rossiya Hotel near Red Square and did not return. (Reuters)

Listeria scare: The listeria poisoning scare in the UK was extended to margarine today following the disclosure last night that the organism caused the death of an 88-year-old Scottish woman.

This morning, supermarkets were taking tubs of margarine from their shelves. The 250gm tubs being withdrawn are sold under five brand names.

The announcement came a day after one in ten samples of pate tested were found to be infected.

The chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, warned vulnerable groups, including the elderly, pregnant women and young children to avoid pate.

The listeria culture grown from the margarine matched the culture of the fatal bug. (KUNA)

Public calls: The murder of a black African worker by armed robbers in south Italy, has sparked public calls on

the Italian government to combat bigotry and racial discrimination against thousands of Arab and African workers in Italy.

Workers' unions, political organisations and members of the public have urged the Italian government to enact measures to combat public expression of hatred against Arab and African immigrant workers, most of whom had entered the country on a tourist visa.

Late last week hooded gunmen opened fire on more than 20 Arab, South African and Senegalese workers, killing Jerry Maslaw, a political refugee from South Africa.

The three armed robbers, still at large, escaped with the hard-won money of the poor workers. (KUNA)

False alarm: A British Airways jumbo jet carrying 291 passengers made an emergency landing in Montreal, Canada, after a fire alert, it was reported here today.

Flight BA298 had taken off from Chicago, bound for London's Heathrow airport, when a warning light on the flight deck indicated a fire in the cargo hold.

The captain decided to divert to the nearest available airport, which happened to be Montreal as a natural precaution, a BA spokesman said.

"It turned out there was no fire and the warning light had gone on because of an electrical fault," he added. (KUNA)

Obesity report: Fat children are likely to grow up to be obese and their life expectancy can be reduced prematurely by 10 years, according to a report published here today.

Doctors said the evidence underlined an urgent need for dietary and health education to prevent them from developing heart disease.

The study, published in the British medical journal, the Lancet, was begun 40 years ago, and has followed more than 500 people who were treated for childhood obesity.

The results showed that 55 of them died at an average age of 63 years for men and 68 for women — two-thirds more deaths than would be expected to occur in the same age groups in the general population.

The Times newspaper, which reproduced the research, said the most common causes of death were cardiovascular diseases, which have long been known to be linked with obesity.

St Kitts is awash with Indian money

First Trust's existence proved

THE Arab Times has stirred up a hornet's nest in Indian politics by first publishing a report on Aug 20 that Indian opposition leader V.P. Singh's son Ajaya Singh allegedly held a foreign account at the First Trust Corporation Limited in St Kitts. The daily Telegraph of Calcutta afterwards interviewed the former managing director of the First Trust Corporation to check the authenticity of our report. We are publishing the text of the story which appeared in the Telegraph on Aug 24.

There was more than one Indian account with The First Trust Corporation Limited, George Maclean, the former managing director of the company told the Telegraph in a taped interview.

"How many Indian accounts would you have?" he was asked. "We had a number of them," he replied.

He also confirmed that the company was very much in existence at the time when Ajaya Singh, son of V.P. Singh, was alleged to have a numbered account (Number 29479) in the corporation. This account was reported to have been created on Sept 16, 1986, and has the signatures of both Ajaya Singh and George Maclean. A total of \$21 million was deposited — starting from Sept 16, 1986, on which day \$2 million was put into the account. The account was closed on Feb 13, 1988.

When questioned directly about whether Ajaya Singh's Account Number 29479 was genuine or not, George Maclean chose to say he could neither confirm nor deny this, adding pointedly that if he revealed anything about the account, he would be liable to suffer a five-year jail sentence under St Kitts' laws.

But he said enough to reach a reasonable interpretation that the account did exist. This is the exact transcript of the taped conversation:

Q: Would you deny that this account (Number 29479) existed at all?

A: Well, I would not confirm it nor would I deny it because in St Kitts it's subject to a five-year jail sentence if I said anything about any account.

Q: Oh, I see. So you would not like to say anything on the subject at all?

A: Well, what I would say is "No comment." That I can't confirm it and I can't deny it.

Later in the course of the recorded interview, Maclean stressed that accounts in St Kitts were totally confidential. "We just can't disclose anything concerning our customers."

Significantly, Maclean said towards the end of the conversation: "I am sorry I can't be of more help to you, but you have to understand the situation."

The correspondent then asked:

Q: Should we read anything into the fact that you cannot deny this account exists?

A: That's correct.

Maclean also revealed that while the company had been closed down for a while, it certainly was not liquidated. And the reason why it had closed was that it was in the process of being amalgamated into another company. (Maclean also confirmed that any statement of deposits and withdrawals from the account would be exactly as the ones in the photostats reproduced by The Telegraph. The photostats show the statement of deposits and withdrawals in Account No. 29479 in the name of Ajaya Singh, with Vishwanath Pratap Singh named as beneficiary in a separate agreement signed on Sept 16, 1986, at Basseterre.)

When these documents printed below reached us (The Telegraph) two things were immediately obvious: first, that their authenticity would be denied by V.P. Singh; and second, that those who had obtained them were motivated against him. Just as, in fact, those who provided the documents to the Hindu were motivated against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The question, clearly, was not of the motivation — but the more important one: were these documents authentic or not?

Two questions followed. First: Did such a company exist at all? Second: Was this the normal form of the statement of accounts given to customers during the period?

A word is necessary to explain the nature of these companies. Readers used to normal banks might wonder at their style of functioning. But these are not banks in that sense. These are small, easily set up, and far more easily broken down, companies whose primary utility is that they hold your money, earn interest (in the case of the First Trust Corporation at a rate of eight per cent adding up to \$219.18 per day per million dollars) for the period you want.

Many people with hot money use these companies, where no one asks any questions about where the money comes from or where it goes to, as conduits. Others, who want to make their money untraceable, pass their wealth through three or four such companies — and by the time it reaches the fourth address no one can be sure where it came from. This is why these companies are often known in slang as "post offices." Secrecy is naturally the key. As Maclean says, St Kitts law imposes a five-year jail sentence on anyone disclosing the identity of an account holder. It is this factor which has made St Kitts — as a recent report in

the International Herald Tribune puts it — the latest paradise for secret money.

The fact that The First Trust Corporation Limited existed was also confirmed for us (The Telegraph) in a strange twist of fate, by none other than a story published in the Indian Express. Seeking to demolish the report of V.P. Singh's foreign bank account, the Express asked its Washington correspondent A. Belu, to investigate. He discovered that this company had "vanished."

True — as Maclean points out, it is the process of amalgamation. But the Express also reported that "It was functioning at Palm Arcade, Princess Street, Basseterre (capital of St Kitts) from Oct 1985 to Aug 1988."

It seems probable that the Express (unaware of the documents) did not realise what it had revealed.

Account Number 29479 was started on Sept 16, 1986 and closed on Feb 13, 1988 — when The First Trust Corporation Ltd was fully in business. It was most salutary confirmation.

The Express also quotes an official describing this company thus: "They well could have been one of those offshore banking institutions which operate under some cover." Well — that is the point isn't it?

The second question was answered when we established contact with the man who was managing director of the company during the period, George Maclean, and whose signature appears both on the agreement opening the numbered account, and the statements of deposits and withdrawals. It is only after we spoke to Maclean, and taped the interview with his permission, that we felt confident enough to go ahead with the story.

There is enough here for the union government or any other competent authority to order an immediate investigation not only into the ownership of Account No. 29479, but, equally significantly, into all of the other Indian accounts held in St Kitts in The First Trust Corporation Limited.

That Indians have numbered accounts in St Kitts is a categorical assertion made by Maclean, without any ifs or buts. The country must know who is guilty.

And finally, the fact that Maclean says that there is more than one Indian account confirms at least this much, that Account Number 29479 is an Indian account.

Transcript of the interview:

Q: The First Trust Corporation Limited: a story has appeared which says it doesn't exist.

A: Well, it doesn't exist now, but it certainly did exist then.

Q: It was in your signature on Account Number 29479. We would like to authenticate or have confirmation that it is your signature.

A: Well, I was head of the company during that period... I cannot, under St Kitts law, confirm or deny that I signed any documents.

Q: The paper that we have in front of us shows an agreement reached between you and Ajaya Singh on Sept 16, 1986, and the address given is 87 Cleburn Road, Apartment 613. Would you have any recollection of that?

A: No, I don't — but you realise that there are a number of accounts... I have been out of the trust company for several months. I had a heart attack and had to return to Canada.

Q: We have a statement of the Trust's withdrawals and deposits of this number (Account 29479). It is on a blank sheet of paper without the company's letterhead. But it has the company's stamp and your signature. Would that be the normal procedure by which you issue a statement of accounts?

A: Yes, if we issued a statement of accounts it would just be a copy of the ledger. There would be no letterhead on it.

Q: Would you deny that this account (29479) existed at all, Maclean?

A: Frankly, I would not confirm it nor would I deny it because in St Kitts it's subject to a five-year jail sentence if I said anything about any account.

Q: Ah, I see, so you would not like to say anything on the subject at all?

A: Well, what I would say is "No comment." That I can't confirm it and I can't deny it.

Q: I see. Do you recollect having ever met Ajaya Singh in September 1986?

A: It's quite a while ago. It's a three years ago. We had a number of Indian accounts. It's hard to put a face on any name. Because we had a number of them.

Q: How many Indian accounts would you have? Do you recollect?

A: We had a number of them.

Q: More than one?

A: More than one.

Q: Do you have any recollection of any other names?

A: I couldn't. Excuse me, again — I couldn't give them to you. Under St Kitts law these are sealed records, not open records.

Q: When do these sealed records get opened?

A: They never get opened.

Q: I see.

A: In other words, they are closed records. For confidentiality, we can't just disclose anything concerning our customers.

Q: Why did you close the corporation down?

A: I was out of it at the time it was closed and the people who took charge after I left, I understand, have amalgamated it with another company.

Q: Is that the reason why it is closed now?

A: Yes, that's correct.

Q: Should we read anything into the fact that you cannot deny that this Account Number 29479 exists?

A: That's correct.

Thaw in India-Nepal ties after Rao visit

KATHMANDU, Aug 26. (AP): Indian External Affairs Minister PV Narasimha Rao departed after talks with Nepalese leaders, declaring a diplomatic stalemate between the two countries had ended.

Relations between India and Nepal soured in March after New Delhi refused to renew trade and transit treaties with the landlocked Himalayan kingdom. The move caused shortages of gasoline, medicines and other goods in Nepal.

Rao was asked by reporters at Kathmandu airport if his visit, the first by an Indian cabinet minister since March, had led to a breakthrough.

"I think so," he replied. "(I am) very satisfied with the talks."

He said the issue would be taken at a meeting between King Birendra and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, next month. The two leaders are scheduled to visit Belgrade for the summit of non-aligned nations.

Rao said his talks with the King yesterday were "useful and extensive" but declined to give more details. He also met with Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha and Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

Nepal had asked that the extension of the trade and transit treaties, which expired March 23, be negotiated separately, mainly because of increasing diversification in its trading partners.

Abdullah 'will crush' rebels

Kashmir in turmoil

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 26. (Reuters): The chief minister of India's strife-torn Kashmir vowed today to crush a separatist movement in the state but said he was ready to pull back from direct confrontation over press censorship.

Farooq Abdullah, speaking a few hours after security forces besieged Kashmir's largest mosque in Srinagar to flush out extremists, said the militants posed a grave threat to the state's security and its tourist-based economy.

"We must not take it sitting down or by being complacent," he said in an interview. "We must hit them now and hit them hard and not let the situation drift."

He accused the state's press of aiding rebels fighting for Muslim-dominated Kashmir's independence from India or for it to become part of neighbouring Pakistan.

"An upsurge of violence prompted Abdullah to push a tough censorship bill through the state assembly this week against fierce opposition from the press."

Newspaper editors pledged to defy the law, but Abdullah said he was ready to drop it if journalists wrote a code of conduct to prevent the militants being depicted as heroes or the highlighting of communist or secessionist views.

"If with these three points they make a code of conduct and they will stick to it and they will take action against those who break the code, I will withdraw the bill," he said.

Abdullah said he would use the bill if journalists did not respond.

Security forces captured at least two militants in Srinagar's Jamia Masjid (mosque) yesterday along with an assault rifle and two pistols, he said.

The two suspected rebels were caught buried to their necks in a heap of sand and covered by a blanket. The weapons were also found concealed in the sand.

Thousands of police have been posted to the state in the foothills of the Himalayas since a spate of shootings and bombings hit Srinagar a year ago.

Soviets learning riot control

NEW DELHI, Aug 26. (UPI): A Soviet delegation has concluded a visit to India to study police techniques for riot and crowd control in the wake of large scale ethnic unrest in several Soviet republics, officials said yesterday.

Police and a Soviet embassy official reported the six-member team left for Moscow yesterday after nearly a week inspecting police tactics in handling mass demonstrations.

They said the delegation from the Soviet Interior Ministry, which is responsible for the police and internal security, received detailed reports from the government department that develops strategies and samples of riot control equipment.

"They wanted to know about the problems of policing in a democratic set-up," one officer told the Indian Express, which also reported the Soviets were curious about Indian crime detection and interrogation techniques.

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INTERNATIONAL

US actor's family infected with AIDS

'Starsky and Hutch' star tells tragic story

LOS ANGELES, Aug 26 (AP): The wife and son of Paul Michael Glaser, star of the US television show "Starsky and Hutch," are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, and the couple's daughter has already died from the disease.

Although Elizabeth Glaser and her 5-year-old son have not developed AIDS, the couple's first child, daughter Ariel, died of AIDS complications last year at age 7.

Glaser is the only family member not infected.

"Lesser men would have walked," said Mrs Glaser, who has taken the anti-AIDS drug AZT for the past 18 months. "He never made us feel we were anything but a family."

Glaser said the family had no choice. "We have grown up a hell of a lot. It was either grow up or perish," he said.

The Glasers have strived to keep their family life as normal as possible, but they

anticipate that will change, they told the Los Angeles Times newspaper in a story in Friday's editions.

They said they decided to go public with their pain after they learned the National Enquirer was planning a story on them. The tabloid declined to comment.

"We begged them not to run the story but they said it was newsworthy," said Glaser, who is now a film director.

"Our fear is the greatest for our son," Mrs Glaser said. "It is our right to tell him when he is strong enough and old enough to handle the information. Now, we may not have that choice."

Glaser, who played the streetwise plainclothes detective Dave Starsky in the police action series that ran from September 1975 to August 1979, acknowledged it is not easy for him to talk about the tragedy he faces.

"This has to be a story about how we rise

above our fears, how we all have to be stronger than we ever thought we could be," he said.

Glaser's former co-star David Soul said he had been unaware of the family's situation and encouraged the public to support the Glasers by helping to fight the deadly disease.

"I have been deeply saddened to learn of the events of these past several years and of the profound loss which Paul and Elizabeth have suffered," Soul said. "But I am also inspired by the strength of their commitment to each other and to their children."

The family's nightmare began in 1981 when Mrs Glaser contracted HIV after receiving seven pints of blood.

She had been rushed to a hospital for the transfusions when she began haemorrhaging in her ninth month of carrying Ariel.

Four years later, her daughter was hospitalised with a stubborn illness. Tests con-

firmed it was AIDS.

The Glasers said Ariel contracted the virus from her mother through eight months of breastfeeding. The boy contracted it in the womb.

Death

After her daughter's death last year, Mrs Glaser, former exhibit director for the local children's museum, turned much of her attention to raising money for paediatric AIDS research. She has collected more than \$5 million.

Her efforts have drawn the support of many celebrities and politicians including former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy.

As of Aug 1, AIDS had been diagnosed in 102,621 Americans, of whom more than half, or 59,391, have died, according to the National Centres for Disease Control. No one is known to have recovered from AIDS.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

STROUDSBURG, Pennsylvania: A 10-year-old boy pleaded innocent on Friday to adult charges of criminal homicide in the March shooting of a 7-year-old girl who was riding a snowmobile in a lot adjacent to his home.

Cameron Kacher was 9 years old when, police said, he loaded his father's .35-calibre rifle, pointed it out his parent's bedroom window and shot Jessica Ann Carr of Gilbert in the head. He has been on \$50,000 bail since he was charged with the crime.

Cameron stood silently next to his attorney as Monroe County Judge Ronald E. Vican, addressing the boy as "Mr Kacher," explained the charges of criminal homicide, aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

Jessica was riding on the back of a snowmobile March 6 in Kresgeville with her friend and Cameron's next-door neighbour, Shannon Ratti, 13, when she was shot.

Cameron was arrested two days later after police found the rifle with a telescopic sight, a cut on the boy's forehead and blood spattered in the room. Cameron said the rifle cut him when its recoil jammed the scope's eyepiece into his face.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Peschanski said in an interview he has ruled out seeking the death penalty. He said if the boy is convicted, punishment could range from probation in conjunction with psychiatric treatment, to life imprisonment. (AP)

BALTIMORE: A pregnant woman has survived two liver transplants in four days, undergoing a procedure that doctors said on Friday may have been done only once before in the United States.

Surgeons transplanted a liver in Martha Maynor, 21, on July 27 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, but the procedure was unsuccessful. A second transplant was performed three days later.

Maynor was more than five months pregnant at the time of the operations. Her liver had been destroyed by a hepatitis-B infection.

Maynor is in good condition and has made an excellent recovery, her doctors said on Friday.

The focus is considered in good but guarded condition. Doctors do not know how anti-rejection drugs will affect the health of the foetus. (UPI)

NEW YORK: John F. Kennedy Jr's first week as a prosecutor ended on Friday with an acquittal — his, on a charge of driving an uninsured vehicle, the State Department of Motor Vehicles said.

Kennedy's attorney Richard A. Halleran, brought evidence to the DMV office in Queens that his client's car was insured when police ticketed the presidential son on July 9, said DMV spokesman Tom Apple.

The charge was then dismissed, although DMV has six months to verify the Kennedy documents, Apple said. The uninsured vehicle charge was the most serious of four against Kennedy; he could have lost his license for one year if convicted. (AP)

LANDOVER, Maryland: A Gardem Angels recruit fatally shot in what was first characterized as an execution-style slaying by angry drug dealers actually died of a self-inflicted wound, police said on Friday.

Dorian Brown, 19, was drinking and playing Russian Roulette with two other members of the crime-fighting organisation when he placed the handgun to his temple and pulled the trigger, said Prince George's county police spokesman Robert Phillips.

The two other members, left the fatally wounded Brown and fled the scene, later telling police they ran because they were "frightened and afraid," Phillips said. (UPI)

DUNCAN, South Carolina: Three teenagers have been charged with defacing the US flag, raising constitutional questions in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling on flag burning, an American Civil Liberties Union official said.

The charge stems from a vandalism spree on Wednesday at Byrnes High School in which two flags were burned, paint was sloshed on floors, books were scattered and fire extinguishers sprayed.

Three 13-year-old boys, students at another school, were charged on Thursday in family court with defacing the flag, entering without breaking, grand larceny and arson. (AP)

NEWTON, Mass. Aug 26 (Agencies): Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., confirmed that a male prostitute he hired as a personal aide used his apartment to run a sex-for-money business, but insisted yesterday he was unaware of the activity and fired the man when he learned about it.

"The notion I knew what was going on was false," the Massachusetts Democrat told a crowded news conference televised live in Boston. "The notion he was procuring other partners for me — sex partners — is an absolute lie."

Frank, 49, referred to a Washington Times story in which a 26-year-old man identified as "Greg Davis" talked of his ties with Frank from 1985 to 1987. Frank told the news conference the man's real name was Stephen Gobie

and that he hired him in hopes he could help him return to a normal life.

Frank, an acknowledged homosexual, said he was "convinced" by the male prostitute. He said he met Gobie, through an escort service about three years ago and paid to have sex with him.

Frank said he later hired Gobie as a personal aide, using only personal funds, because he wanted to help rehabilitate him.

The Washington Times newspaper reported that the male prostitute, provided homosexual and bisexual prostitution services from Frank's apartment from late-1985 through mid-1987.



Championship golf

Double amputee Tom Quinn, of East Quogue, New York, watches his putt head for the cup on the 18th green at the Singing Hills Country Club Thursday in the final round of the 41st Annual Endolite /NAGA

Amputee Golf Championship in San Diego Over 140 amputee golfers from around the world competed in the championship. (Reuter wirephoto)

Going solo
Aviator averts
disaster

OAKLAND, California, Aug 26 (AP): An aviator who wants to be the first Australian woman to fly solo around the world says the 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometre) leg from Hawaii was the scariest since she left Sydney on August 2.

"I didn't think that I would make it," a shaken Gaby Kennard said Thursday after landing at Oakland International Airport.

Kennard, 44, left Hilo Wednesday after adding fuel tanks and waiting more than a week for favourable winds. She added fuel tanks after strong headwinds forced her to land at Johnston Island in the mid-Pacific.

"It was a perfect night," she recalled of the first night out from Hawaii. "A half moon, starry skies."

Then she turned a valve to switch from one auxiliary fuel tank to another.

"Chug, chug, sputter, sputter," went the engine, she said.

Her Piper Saratoga fell 1,000 feet (300 metres) before the engine finally came back to life.

"I'm not sure how I did it," Kennard recalled. "I just kept fiddling at it. Anyway, I managed to do it."

More trouble followed, she said.

She had 297 gallons (1,120 litres) for the 16-hour flight and was saving her two main tanks, good for six hours, for the last stretch.

Kennard isn't sure what the exact problem was with the six auxiliary tanks that jammed her tiny cabin. Three more times she switched tanks. Each time, the engine died, the plane plummeted, and she frantically managed to restart it.

"I didn't dare try it anymore," Kennard said.

Five and a half hours from Oakland — 30 minutes with her safety margin — she switched to her main tanks and began to relax.

Leona's trial
nearly over

'Vanishing act' depicted

NEW YORK, Aug 26 (AP): A prosecutor said yesterday that Leona Helmsley and her two co-defendants made Mrs Helmsley's personal expenses disappear into the Helmsley hotel and real estate empire.

Assistant US Attorney James Devita made the comparison in his rebuttal to more than 12 hours of summations by the three defence attorneys.

He urged the US District Court jury to ignore the defence arguments by using their common sense and focusing on the evidence.

After Devita's rebuttal, the jury was to receive instructions from US District Judge John Walker Jr, and expected to begin deliberations this morning.

Mrs Helmsley, 69, has been on trial for eight weeks on charges she evaded \$1.2 million in US taxes by charging personal expenses, including renovations at her Connecticut estate, to Helmsley businesses.

Former aides Frank Turco and Joseph Licari charged with assisting in the scheme.

Mrs Helmsley and Turco also are charged with conspiring to extort payoffs and merchandise from vendors doing business with the Helmsley organisation.

Mrs Helmsley's 80-year-old husband, Harry, was charged in the indictment but was severed from the trial because he was found to be mentally incompetent.

Devita told jurors that even though Mrs Helmsley intensely disliked Licari, who was her husband's chief financial officer, they were still part of a conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service.

He said Turco, who was Mrs Helmsley's aide, was the go-between.

"It's kind of like a Bermuda Triangle. It makes personal expenses disappear into the businesses," he said.

Devita said the defence argument that Mrs Helmsley's employees devised a phony billing scheme to disguise renovations at the Connecticut estate because they wanted to avoid contact with the vitriolic Mrs Helmsley was nonsense.

He said there were numerous examples in evidence of bills that Mrs Helmsley had approved personally and were still changed to make it appear the work was done at corporate entities.

During the rebuttal, Mrs Helmsley frequently glared at Devita and scribbled on a note pad.

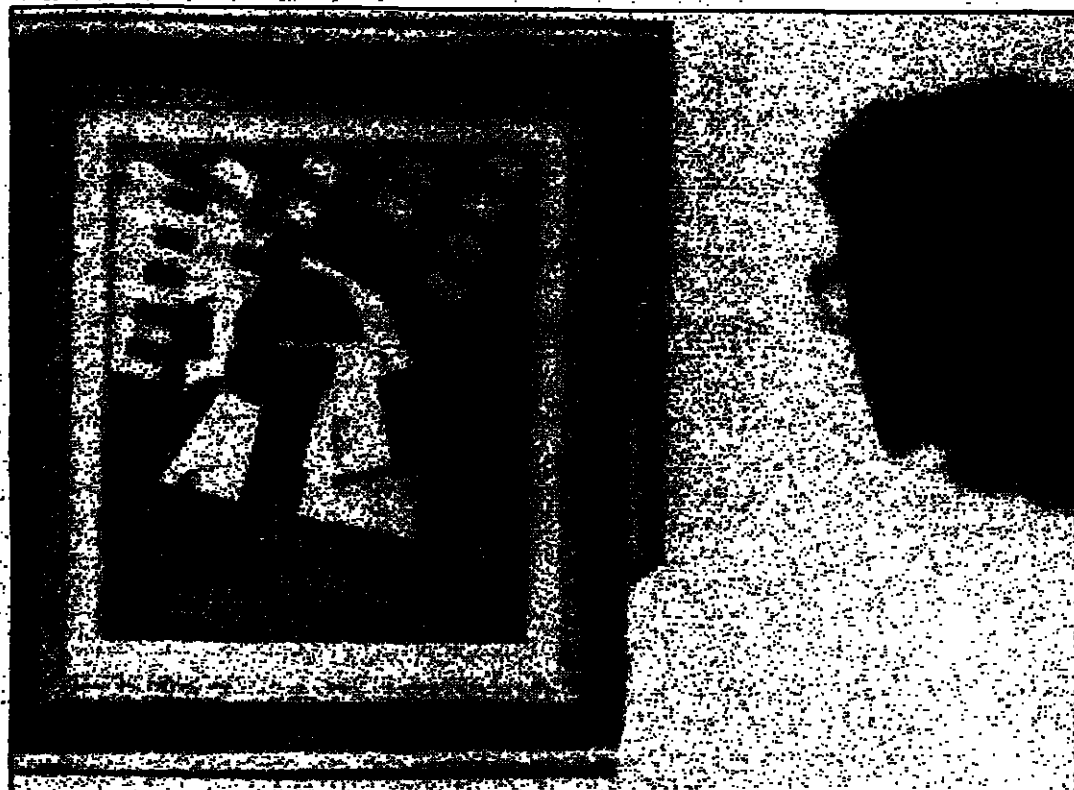
The 41 counts against her include conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service, tax evasion, filing false returns, mail fraud and extortion conspiracy.

The extortion conspiracy charge carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence upon conviction. The other charges carry three-to-five-year sentences.

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Which way is up?

Modern art can be confusing at times. This 1916 Juan Gris painting bought by Madrid's Modern Art Museum has been hanging upside down since 1984 when the purchase was made through a well-

known art gallery. Once the mistake was spotted, the painting was hanged right side up. Picture shows the painting hanging upside down. (Reuter wirephoto)

Man says he
killed Newton

Self-defence claimed

OAKLAND, California, Aug 26 (AP): A man described by police as a drug dealer has been arrested in connection with the murder of Huey P. Newton, but claimed self-defence in killing the Black Panther founder, police said yesterday.

Tyrone Robinson, 25, of Oakland was arrested on a weapons charge Tuesday, hours after Newton's early morning slaying on a west Oakland sidewalk, police said.

Police said last night that Robinson had confessed to killing Newton, a leader of the militant Black Panthers Party in the 1960s.

Investigators believe they recovered the 9mm pistol used in Newton's killing, police said, but ballistics tests are still pending.

Robinson "considered the murder a means to advance" in the Black Guerrilla Family, a narcotics distribution gang, Sgt Dan Mercado said at a news conference last evening at the Oakland Hall of Justice.

"He wanted to be high-mucky-muck," Mercado said later in an interview.

The Black Guerrilla Family is a prison-based gang that operates in the state's maximum-security prisons, including San Quentin, where Newton served time, authorities said.

Robinson, currently on parole for a robbery conviction, confessed to the killing early yesterday and is scheduled for arraignment

Tuesday, Mercado said.

Mercado said Newton and Robinson had known each other for two years.

Mercado said Newton argued with Robinson over a cocaine deal and that Robinson then shot the 47-year-old former leader of the militant Black Panthers movement in the 1960s.

Robinson contended Newton pulled a gun when the two met at a street corner in the drug-torn neighbourhood, but investigators said they found no evidence Newton had been armed.

The killing occurred in a neighbourhood where Newton, as minister of defence for the Black Panthers, once tried to set up social programmes to help destitute blacks.

Police said Robinson told them Newton demanded drugs and that he refused to sell them to him. Police said the two argued for about a minute.

Police said Newton had "crossed" the Black Guerrilla Family several times in the past. Investigators believe Newton stole drugs from the gang, including an instance earlier this summer when, Robinson said, he was robbed by Newton of 14 crack cocaine rocks valued at \$160.

Mercado said a man accompanying Robinson witnessed the shooting, but police did not divulge whether the man, arrested yesterday for investigation of auto theft, backed up Robinson's claim of self-defence.

Slaying
causes
furore

NEW YORK, Aug 26 (AP): The slaying of a black teenager by a gang of white youths has drawn appeals for renewed efforts to repair race relations in the nation's largest city.

Many New Yorkers "have closed their eyes and tried to pretend that this city is not choking with racial hatred," Gales Kirkland, head of the city civil rights coalition, said at a news conference yesterday.

The New York Urban League renewed its call for appointment of a permanent special prosecutor for bias crimes.

Five young white men have been charged as members of the gang that killed 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins in a rage against interracial dating. A sixth suspect was being sought.

Police sources have said they know the identity of the gunman, but would not say last night if he was one of those arrested.

Hawkins and three friends went to a predominantly Italian and Jewish section of Brooklyn known as Bensonhurst on Wednesday night to try to buy a used car.

Among those charged yesterday was Keith Mondello, 18, who police said was the youth whose troubles with a girlfriend led to the attack of the four blacks by up to 30 young men, many wielding baseball bats.

Police said Mondello and his friends were said to be enraged that his former girlfriend, Gina Feliciano, had been dating black and Hispanic men and were trying to prevent non-whites from attending the girl's birthday party.

Commissioner Benjamin Ward said the gang of 10 to 30 whites were looking for blacks and Hispanics they believed were coming to the neighbourhood to attend Miss Feliciano's 18th birthday party.

Attorney Stephen Murphy told reporters that Mondello was not the jilted boyfriend. He said Mondello conceded being at the scene and having a bat, but maintained that Mondello was armed to protect himself against the girl's threat that her black and Hispanic friends would beat him up.

Hawkins' death and the outrage over it was reminiscent of the strife-filled mood following the Howard Beach racial attack of December 1986, when Michael Griffith, a black, was hit by a car while fleeing a gang of white teenagers accused at blacks entering their Queens neighbourhood.

Son starved to death

Parents on trial

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania, Aug 26 (AP): A couple accused of letting their teen-age son starve to death feared seeking outside aid because authorities did not help years earlier after their children were abused, a defence attorney said yesterday.

"The evidence will show the entire family knew what will happen if they did not eat... that a person without food for a long time will die," public defender Al Fiora said in opening arguments in the third-degree murder case.

But Larry and Leona Cottam were too scared to turn to outsiders for food because they were afraid the children would be taken from them and hurt, Fiora said.

Eric Cottam, 14, died in January and his parents and 12-year-old sister, Laura, were hospitalized after a six-week fast. The family went without food despite having saved \$3,775 they said was a gift belonging to God, police said.

Assistant district attorney Anne Ciancone told the jury that the family wanted to eat. She said Eric had tried to stay alive by eating roots from the yard and hiding a frying pan and oil in his bedroom.

Mrs Cottam wept quietly throughout opening arguments, while her husband, a former minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, sat stoically beside her.

If convicted of the third-degree murder charge, the Cottams each face a maximum 20-year prison term.

Son of drug kingpin arrested in shootout

US sending arms, copters to Colombia

BOGOTA, Aug 26. (Agencies): The Army says it has arrested the son of a reputed Medellin drug lord after a shootout and recovered secret financial documents disclosing operations of Colombia's most powerful drug cartel.

Freddy Rodriguez Gacha, son of the suspected second-ranking leader of the Medellin cartel, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, was arrested along with Luis Fernando Galeano Berrios, the reputed chief accountant for the elder Rodriguez, the Army said last night.

Army officials said the arrests and the seizure of the documents came in a raid Thursday on the fortified rural bunker of the elder Rodriguez,

who is reputed to be the financial brain behind the Medellin drug-trafficking ring.

Soldiers traded gunfire with Freddy Rodriguez, two of the elder Rodriguez's nephews and seven bodyguards during the raid Thursday on the estate in Pachó, 60 miles (96 kilometres) northwest of Bogotá, officers told the Bogotá daily newspaper El Tiempo.

President Virgilio Barco went on national television and radio last night after the arrests were disclosed and said he was "willing to go as far as necessary" to put the drug barons out of business.



A Colombian soldier stands guard over Luis Fernando Galeano, a reputed drug trafficker and member of "The Extaditables" gang. (Reuter wirephoto)



University students march through downtown Bogotá, holding a banner reading "No to the Mafia." (Reuter wirephoto)

Hit squads well trained

BOGOTA, Aug 26. (Reuters): Mercenaries from Britain, Israel and the United States have trained hit squads linked to Colombo's drug lords, the government's intelligence agency said yesterday.

Diva Rojas, a spokeswoman for the Department of Administrative Security (DAS), told Reuters the instructors began to arrive last year and trained the squads, known as paramilitary groups, in at least three areas.

She said the instructors were retired military men and did not represent their nations' governments in any way.

Rojas said the instructors had trained youths aged between 15 and 25 in camps located in Puerto Boyaca, a Magdalena river port reported to be at the centre of the paramilitary groups, the eastern jungle state of Caquetá and near Medellín.

Rojas said she did not know if the foreign mercenaries continued operating in Colombia despite a June 9 presidential decree punishing military instructors of the squads with jail terms of up to 20 years.

She spoke after a leading Colombian newspaper said yesterday that country's cocaine cartels have contracted the services of retired US, Israeli, British, West German, Swedish, and military men from Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, to train their hit squads.

El Espectador, citing local and foreign intelligence sources, said the foreign instructors had also been contracted to train the cocaine cartels in "terrorist tactics" and design electronic security systems.

It said four former members of Britain's SAS (Special Air Services) elite, who had engaged in action against the Irish Republican Army, trained a hit squad which tried to attack reputed Medellín cartel boss Pablo Escobar in a fortified house on one of his estates.

El Espectador said investigations carried out by Colombia, the United States and Israel had established the identity of eight instructors, of British and Israeli

Sidelights

Macabre altar: In the chapel of a medieval-style castle seized from a Colombian drug baron, replete with gold ornaments and stained-glass windows, a Bible is open to a page exhorting Christians to shun vices. Reporters who toured the 20-room castle yesterday also saw a room apparently used for pagan rituals where a crystal bowl, tigers' teeth and about 30 religious statues among plates of apples and oranges formed a macabre altar.

The Marroqui castle, perched on a hilltop 20 km (12 miles) north of Bogotá, was one of about 200 properties seized this week in a government crackdown on cocaine barons.

The castle formed part of a sumptuous farm of 80 hectares (200 acres) belonging to Camilo Zapata Vasquez, who an army spokesman said had links with the Medellín cocaine cartel.

"This one did not belong to a very rich drug trafficker but, for a change, one with taste," said an army official who gave reporters a guided tour.

Eighteen people were employed to tend the grounds and care for the 50 thoroughbred horses and the 100 swans gently gliding on a small lake.

Plead innocent: A US drug agent and his brother pleaded innocent to cocaine trafficking charges yesterday and a US magistrate said she would decide Monday whether either man should be freed on bail.

Prosecutor Thomas Burrows asked US magistrate Patti Saris to hold Edward O'Brien and his brother John without bail.

Defence lawyers recommended that Edward O'Brien be released with an electronic bracelet that would let authorities check his whereabouts and that John O'Brien be freed on bail.

"I do believe there is a serious risk of flight," Saris said, but added that she was intrigued by the bracelet idea.

Edward O'Brien, who formerly ran the DEA office in Springfield, Massachusetts, and John O'Brien were each indicted Thursday on five counts of cocaine trafficking. Edward O'Brien, 44, has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of his case.

O'Brien, a former expert in government "sting" operations, was arrested by undercover officers Aug 14 at Boston's Logan International Airport while allegedly delivering suitcases filled with 62 pounds (28 kilograms) of cocaine.

Drug crackdown: Florida's second sweep of drug users and dealers has resulted in more than 1,400 arrests, authorities said.

"I think the idea is to just get as much crack off the street as we can, and to once again send a message to people that we are buying and selling crack that it's not going to be tolerated," Jim Lipidal, spokesman for the Broward county sheriff's office, said yesterday.

By late last night, police had confiscated 6,683 crack cocaine rocks, 2.6 pounds (1.1 kilograms) of cocaine powder, 10.44 pounds (4.7 kilograms) of marijuana, 52 firearms, 209 vehicles and \$54,667 in cash.

A day after the traffickers declared "total and absolute war" on the government, Barco said "The Colombian people have taken up the challenge. They must know we will not retreat before any danger."

Barco yesterday warned citizens that the crusade to seize the drug barons and end the scourge would cost "blood, pain and suffering."

"Listen well, Colombia is at war," Barco said in a televised evening address. "This is not a simple rhetorical expression. This country is at war against drug traffickers."

The declaration came exactly a week after the assassination of popular presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galán, an outspoken foe of drug traffickers. Galán's slaying triggered the government's anti-narcotics offensive.

Drug traffickers responded Thursday by launching a series of arson and bombing attacks, police said.

They said arsonists hired by the traffickers set a country club outside Medellín on fire yesterday, but no injuries were reported and only two rooms were damaged.

The traffickers also threatened to kill 10 judges for every drug suspect extradited to the United States in Colombia's week-old crackdown on drugs, and hundreds of judges said they would quit if they don't get more protection.

US aid

Barco praised US aid as "indispensable" to the success of his country's offensive. Washington said it was sending \$65 million worth of helicopters, weapons and other equipment to help the Colombian government.

A US Air Force C-5 transport plane brought in two Bell 212 helicopters yesterday.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said some US personnel would accompany the equipment being sent beginning next week, but in light of a desire to avoid involving US troops directly in the violence he said the number of "advisers" would be small and would be expected only to teach Colombians how to operate equipment.

Colombian Army intelligence officers said they interrogated the younger Rodriguez and the bodyguards of his father, who is considered second in command of the Medellín cartel after Pablo Escobar Gaviria.

Officials said the financial documents they confiscated disclosed the Medellín cartel's criminal operations. Reporters who visited the fortress Friday said the evidence included book-keeping accounts and the names of a number of real estate companies, lawyers and other individuals in Bogotá and other Colombian cities that worked for the cartel.

The reporters said at least 500 soldiers had cordoned off the area and six armoured cars had been sent to guard against a counterattack by the drug cartel.

Raid

A Defence Ministry communiqué said yesterday the Army was continuing raids on the property of suspected traffickers and on suspected cocaine smuggling sites nationwide.

It said two tons of cocaine were seized in a raid Thursday on a clandestine airstrip, and that the seven-day offensive so far had netted six tons.

That brought the total for 1989 to an unprecedented 27 tons of cocaine—nine tons more than was confiscated in all of last year.

About 550 judges in Bogotá and the surrounding province of Cundinamarca announced plans yesterday to hand in their resignations to protest what they feel is insufficient security. In the city of Cali, the base for the Medellín cartel's major rival in the drug smuggling business, judges staged a two-hour strike.

tycoons by training hit squads. Reports that drug lords spare no expense in luring mercenaries from Israel, Britain and South Africa to protect their unholy trade come as no surprise in Colombia's cocaine capital.

An Israeli Army reservist yesterday admitted giving military training to Colombians



Hashish floating

Dutch police were searching for floating hashish after more than two thousand kilograms of the narcotic washed up onto beaches near Amsterdam, a police spokesman said.

According to a police spokesman, an early morning runner reported finding 15 kilograms of hashish Thursday morning in Haastede, on the North Sea coast, about 110 km (70 miles) southwest of the capital Amsterdam.

"It was packed in 30 kg lots in jute coffee bags with English writing on them," police spokesman Ton Muller

said. He refused to disclose what was written on the bags or to estimate the value of the find.

He said police and customs vessels and aircraft continued to search coastal areas to find any more of the substance and added police officers would be posted on beaches for the next tidal cycle to gather any more jettisoned bags.

Picture shows young bathers pull a pack of the drug ashore. (Reuter wirephoto)

Europe braces up for a fight

Crack poses a threat

LONDON, Aug 26. (AP): Crack cocaine busts in Western Europe amount to only a few ounces a year, a minuscule amount compared to the United States, but authorities fear their problems are just beginning.

"Crack is the spectre I see hanging over Europe," British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd told delegates of the 23-nation Council of Europe, invited to London in May to discuss drug abuse.

"Our job must be to work together, urgently, to ensure that the United States experience is not repeated here," he said.

Britain is the only European country already battling a crack problem. But vigilance is being stepped up because of an enormous increase in European imports of crack's parent drug, cocaine.

Agents of the US Drug Enforcement Agency have held a workshop to teach Italian authorities how to spot "crack," and the drug is expected to be high on the agenda for discussion at two European drug conferences.

Crack, the cheap, smokeable form of cocaine, gives an instant and intense "high" as it goes directly to the brain. The drug unusually wears off in minutes and can leave a lingering, deep depression.

While authorities are concerned by it, they also disagree to some extent over the threat crack poses to Western Europe.

Officials in some countries predict they won't even have a problem. But others envision trouble on a scale of that in the United States, where crime and drug abuse rates are reported higher in some communities where crack use is growing.

Spain, Sweden and Italy say they haven't seized any crack. West German police have seized so little they don't keep figures. The Swiss confiscated two grams (.07 ounces) in 1988.

"The general rule is that Europe is four to six years behind the (United) States," says Gerhard Neuhof, of Interpol, the Paris-based international police agency. "Of course, every rule has its exceptions."

Nowhere is the debate more heated than in Britain, which had 21 crack seizures in the first six months of 1989, and 27 in the same period last year.

British authorities say they seized 102 grams (3.6

ounces) between January 1987 and June 1989, 68 grams (2.4 ounces) of it in the first half of this year.

"Although the number of seizures is still small, they have been quite widespread, with crack found in many of our major cities," Hurd told another privately sponsored anti-drug conference in July.

Problem users have appeared in the last 15 months in south London, said Steve Tippell, who heads a counselling and crisis centre there and is touring US cities to study their response to the crack epidemic.

Because of the high cost of the drug in south London, he said, most users in the capital make their own crack, which is easily converted from cocaine. A crack "rock," which provides two ready-made smokes, costs £20 to £25 (\$30-\$40), about double the US price.

Interpol says crack seizures in Europe have totalled 600 grams (22 ounces) since 1986, but British drug experts say this might not include small amounts seized.

Cocaine seizures, on the other hand, rose from 345 pounds (155 kg) in 1978 to almost six tons (6,000 kg) last year in Europe, exceeding the heroin haul for the first time, according to Interpol.

Neuhof said the high cost of crack, coupled with a different mentality toward cocaine, were reasons Europe may not be infiltrated by crack as heavily as the United States.

"In the States, crack is a cheap drug for social underdogs," he said. "In Europe, social underdogs drink alcohol or shoot heroin or take amphetamines."

"We were caught napping when heroin first arrived," says Hans Lundborg, head of the Narcotics Bureau at Sweden's Ministry for Social Affairs. "The government can't afford to make that same mistake again."

Britain is emphasizing education and treatment rather than all-out attempts to stop supplies, an approach he says is derived from studying mistakes committed in the United States.

"The Americans are quite clear that if they would have their time over again, they would have given more emphasis to prevention work," Hurd said.

GRU man under surveillance

Soviets refute Palme blame

MOSCOW, Aug 26. (UPI): Soviet officials yesterday denied Swedish intelligence allegations that the Soviet Union knew former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was going to be assassinated.

"Olof Palme was a man admired in the Soviet Union for his peace-loving actions, and the very idea that the Soviet Union knew that an assassination attempt was being prepared but did not take measures to avert it is absurd and insulting," an unnamed Soviet military spokesman told TASS, the official news agency.

According to state-owned

Swedish television, Sweden's secret service, Swapo, said its surveillance of an unidentified officer of the Soviet military intelligence agency GRU led it to conclude the Soviet Union knew former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was going to be assassinated.

"It is necessary to eliminate the virus of mistrust of everything Soviet," Soviet Foreign Ministry official Yuri Gremitskiikh said at a news conference.

Christer Peterson, a Swedish alcoholic and drug addict with a long criminal record, was convicted of Palme's murder on circumstantial evidence July 27. His

appeal will be heard Sept. 14.

The allegations against the Soviet Union in the Swedish media said the police force hunting for Palme's killer was first informed of the Sapo surveillance of the Soviet agent in 1988, two years after the murder.

The Sapo's material was used in a private investigation by Social Democratic publisher Ebbe Carlsson, Swedish media reports said. Carlsson believed the Kurdish separatist group PKK had shot Palme. He received information about the investigation of the Soviet agent and alleged the PKK was supported by Moscow.

Angry Papa won't testify

ATHENS, Aug 26. (AP): Former premier Andreas Papandreu refused yesterday to testify before a parliamentary committee investigating his alleged involvement in a major financial scandal that led to his fall from power.

Instead, Papandreu sent a note to the committee questioning its legality. He referred members to a memorandum he submitted to an earlier commission of inquiry into the scandal formed when he was premier.

Parliament voted in July to authorise the investigation of Papandreu and four of his former ministers in connection with the \$210 million Bank of Crete embezzlement scandal.

Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) lost the national elections in June amid allegations that he and former ministers had authorised the activities of the bank's owner and chairman George Koskotas, or had taken bribes from him.

A government formed by the conservative New Democracy Party and the communist-led coalition of the Left and Progress on July 2 vowed to cleanup of political life before holding new elections.

A Boston magistrate ruled this week that Koskotas should be extradited to Greece from the United States where he fled last November.

While fighting extradition, Koskotas claimed in several interviews that Papandreu had blackmailed him into embezzling the bank for the benefit of his party. Papandreu denies the allegations.

In his message yesterday, Papandreu wrote: "I will not go into the legality of the proposal for an investigation and the procedures of the committee, nor into the interests which they undoubtedly serve."

He attached a memorandum which he sent in February to the members of a committee set up to probe the Bank of Crete scandal. That committee was disbanded prior to the elections before submitting a report.

Papandreu admitted in the memorandum that he had met three times with Koskotas, at the latter's request, but that he had moved swiftly to order an investigation into the banker's illegal activities when he was informed of them.

Papandreu and his party have claimed since the Koskotas scandal broke last October that the scandal was being exploited by their political enemies.

Envoys eligibility disputed

WASHINGTON, Aug 26. (Reuters): Top job, comfortable climate, good wine, friendly neighbours, nice housing—and only presidential political friends need apply.

The union representing professional US diplomats said yesterday it will use the State Department next week to demand the release of reports used to justify President George Bush's nominations of political friends to serve as ambassadors.

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) plans to charge that Secretary of State James Baker has illegally held confidentially the appointees' competency reports to conceal their lack of qualifications.

"They go to comfortable places where the climate is good, the people are friendly, the wine is good and the housing is good," an AFSA spokesman said. "They go to Rome, London, Scandinavian countries. Very few ever wind up in Africa."

The spokesman said ambassadors, whether career diplomats or political appointees, should know the country and speak its working language, should be interested in international affairs and should be esteemed in their field of work.

The United States has a high percentage of political patronage in ambassadorial appointments.

The administration has said its goal is one-third political appointments.

Senator Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat, plans to challenge in the full Senate the confirmation of three appointees whose qualifications he said were essentially political—Joseph Zappala as ambassador to Spain, Melvin Sembler to Australia and Della Newman to New Zealand.

SE Asian legislators want foreign bases out

MANILA, Aug. 26, (AP): Southeast Asian lawmakers called today for the dismantling of all foreign military bases in the region, but they also said neutrality cannot assure peace without superpower co-operation.

Delegates to the six-day meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' inter-parliamentary organiza-

tion made the statement in a communique issued at the close of the meeting. The communique said closure of foreign bases and the removal of nuclear weapons "will greatly facilitate the early realization of the establishment of the zone of peace, freedom and neutrality and Southeast Asian nuclear weapons-free zone."

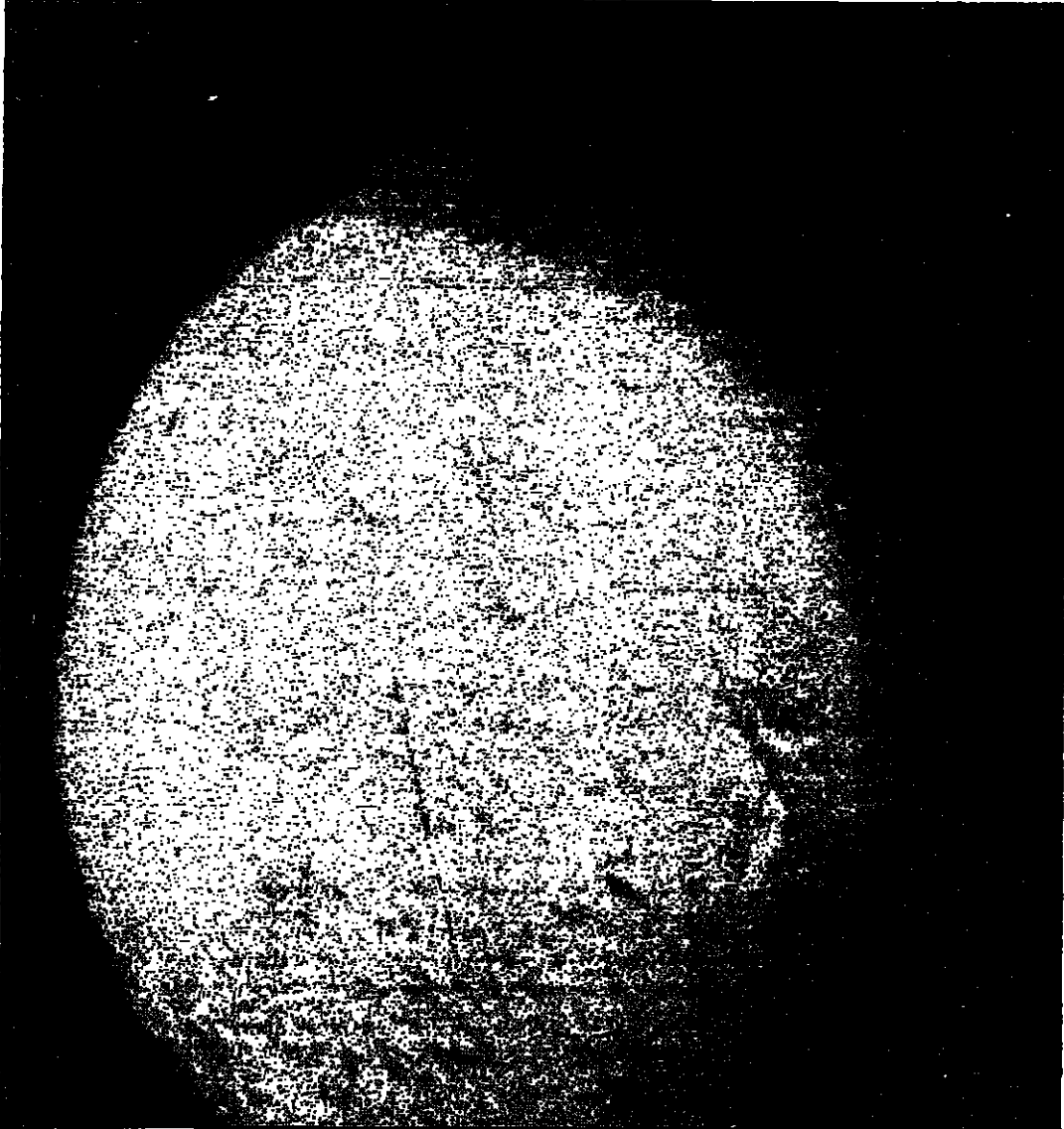
It did not give a date for when such bases should be dismantled or directly mention the Philippines, which hosts six US-run military installations. Aside from the Philippines, the non-communist Asian association is composed of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The communique said association members must "at the appropriate time" consult the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, India and other world powers about the region's bid to establish a neutrality zone and gain their recognition and support.

"Without (their) recognition, without the guarantees, peace and freedom remain as elusive as today," Peter Sung, Singapore's minister of state for foreign affairs and national development, told reporters.

In the Philippines, the United States maintains Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations under an agreement that expires in September 1991. Talks are expected to begin late this year on extending the agreement.

President Corason Aquino refuses to say whether she supports a new agreement, which must be approved by two-thirds of the 23-member senate. On Thursday, 12 senators called for closing the bases in 1991, showing the Aquino administration lacks the votes for ratification.



This photo of Neptune's moon Triton was taken by Voyager 2. (Reuter wirephoto)

Triton pics stunning

Vagaries of swift information

Instant peril

PASADENA, Aug. 25, (Agencies): Voyager 2 headed toward interstellar space today, leaving behind stunning photos of Neptune's moon Triton, where pink snow and blue ice can be seen.

"The range of geological forms is dazzling," astronomer author Carl Sagan said Friday. "We are almost certainly in a regime of volcanism involving ices, maybe exotic ices" such as water ice mixed with frozen nitrogen or methane (natural gas).

The one-ton space probe capped its historic 4.43-billion-mile (7.13-billion-kilometre), 12-year tour of four planets when it skimmed 3,048 miles (4,905 kilometres) over Neptune's north pole on Thursday night, then dove past Triton, the planet's largest moon. It made its closest approach about 23,900 miles (38,460 kilometres) above the moon's surface at 0910 GMT on Friday.

During its approach to Neptune, Voyager discovered six moons besides Nereid and Triton, which were first observed from Earth. It also discovered one complete ring of debris around the planet and a partial ring, or ring arc, scientists believe will also prove to be a complete ring.

Closest Although Voyager has passed its closest encounters with Neptune and Triton, it is continuing to send back recorded photographs taken during its closest approach.

The photographs show a cracked, frozen Triton scarred by thousand-foot-high (300-metre-high) ridges, fault lines, bowl-shaped craters, mysterious domes and dark spots rimmed with white halos that so far defy explanation.

"The images returned this morning revealed a world unlike any we've ever seen," Voyager project scientist Edward Stone said yesterday at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's jet propulsion laboratory.

Icy volcanic flows have been seen on Uranus' moon Ariel and some other moons, but Triton is the first place scientists have actually seen ice volcanoes, Stone said. Photographs showed at least three inactive volcanoes.

NASA geologist Joseph Boyce said one of the ice volcanoes — which look like dry lakebeds filled with smooth material — measures several hundred miles

PASADENA, California, Aug. 26, (AP): Three days ago, Bradford Smith pointed to a picture from Voyager 2 of one of Neptune's partial rings and said he'd been wrong.

"It seemed reasonable that this was the lost arc that our imaging team raiders were looking for," he said. But the arc that had disappeared from some earlier pictures and been rediscovered wasn't an arc at all. "It goes all the way around," Smith said.

Reporters rushed to correct earlier stories saying that Neptune's first ring had been found. "Now you're going to turn on me, right?" Smith said.

He was suffering the perils of what scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory call "instant science." "We have to think on our feet," Smith said Thursday. "We see things in the images and we try to tell you what we think we see. When the images get better, we have to go even faster."

Smith's job is complicated by the swift delivery of information to the media. Monitors in the press room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory show reporters raw images from the spacecraft at the same time the scientists see them.

When interesting features appear on the television monitors, reporters want interpretations right away. Sometimes the scientists themselves, busy with countless mission-related chores, haven't seen the latest images. Often they haven't had time to decide what the images show.

Smith's unhappy experience with the ring occurred at a Tuesday morning news briefing. Much the same thing happened to Voyager scientists again Thursday, when they stumbled over reports that the spacecraft was about to enter Neptune's magnetic field.

Douglas Griffith, deputy mission manager, told reporters early in the day that the spacecraft had crossed a supersonic shock wave surrounding Neptune's magnetic field and was about to enter the field itself.

In fact, the spacecraft crossed the shock wave once, then the shock wave moved, and the spacecraft crossed it again, Griffith said.

Two hours later, scientists reported that the shock wave had not been crossed.

(kilometres) across. Some were encircled with cliffs 1,000 to 2,000 feet (300 to 600 metres) high.

The properties of exotic ices made of water, methane and nitrogen "are very different from ordinary ice," said Sagan, a member of the Voyager imaging team. "That may explain the exoticness of the landforms."

Parts of the moon are frozen methane discoloured by a bombardment of radiation that produced chemical changes, Sagan said. "We've got pink snow. Think about how exotic that is."

Preliminary measurements of Triton's magnetic field suggest that it does not have a north pole and a south pole like Earth's magnetic field, but rather multiple poles, researchers said.

Robert Strom of the Voyager imaging team said the relative scarcity of craters in Triton tends to confirm speculation that Triton originated outside the solar system and became captured by Neptune's gravity, perhaps after colliding with one of its moons.

Voyager also revealed that Triton has an atmosphere and is

China pledges to hunt rebels

BEIJING, Aug. 26, (Agencies): Senior Chinese officials said today that rebels plotting sabotage were still at large in Beijing and had to be found.

"There are still some counter-revolutionary rebels who are plotting acts of sabotage," Beijing deputy Communist Party Secretary Li Qiyuan told a meeting of party officials.

"It is very important to ferret out the counter-revolutionaries," he was quoted as saying on Beijing television. "This affects the survival of the party and government."

Beijing party leader Li Ximing echoed the remarks, saying that the party should target specific incidents of unrest that led to the Army assault on Beijing in June. Certain government departments and individuals should also be targeted, he told the meeting without elaborating.

Thousands have been arrested throughout China in a campaign of intimidation since a pro-democracy campaign was crushed by the Army in June with heavy loss of life. Western diplomats say.

Beijing remains under martial law with soldiers guarding key crossroads and bridges, although the number of troops has been reduced.

Senior Communist Party official Song Ping said this week that the party was to blame for the turmoil and that more dismissals from its ranks were needed. Former party chief Zhao Ziyang, ousted in June after losing a power struggle with hardliners in the leadership, came under renewed attack in the official press today.

The Workers' Daily, in a front-page commentary, accused Zhao of building up the power of entrepreneurs and paving the way for capitalism.

The Chinese government gave new assurances today through a visiting Chinese-American that senior leader Deng Xiaoping is in good health, seeking to counter increasingly numerous reports that he is seriously ill.

Anna Chennault, a prominent member of US President George Bush's Republican Party and an occasional informal adviser to the president, said she did not ask to meet with Deng, although she has met him on past visits.

But she added, Deng's "children assure me he's in very good health and still smoking and swimming and sometimes scolding them."

Speaking at a news conference at the US embassy, she said Deng sent a message via his children that "at this time it is better for him not to receive any foreign visitors (to) show he's not trying to take over and trying to control all the other officials."

Well-placed Chinese sources have said Deng is seriously ill with cancer and is receiving medical care in Beijing. He has not been seen in public since early June.

Reports from a variety of sources also indicate a power struggle is brewing over his succession, and that members of the conservative faction that led the June crackdown are trying to downplay Deng's illness to gain time to consolidate their position.

Chennault, however, said she was told Deng was in Beidaihe, a seaside resort northeast of Beijing.

Akihito's son 'to wed next year'

TOKYO, Aug. 26, (AP): Japanese news media reported today that arrangements were being made to clear the way for the wedding of Emperor Akihito's second son, possibly as early as next year.

But palace and government officials would not comment on the reports that 23-year-old Prince Aya, second in line to the throne, has received his parents' approval to marry a 22-year-old graduate student he has been dating for the past four years.

"Prince Aya to wed next spring," said a headline in Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's leading newspaper. The story included a large colour photograph of Aya and Kiko Kawashima.

Speculation of an imminent engagement announcement was triggered by a visit to Akasaka palace in central Tokyo last night by Miss Kawashima, a student of psychology at Tokyo's Gakushuin University, and her parents.

Miss Kawashima's father, Tatsuhiko, is a

professor of economics at Gakushuin, which is Prince Aya's alma mater and where the couple met.

Kyodo News Service said chief palace official Soichi Fujimori had acknowledged he was instructed today to begin official preparations for the engagement when he met Aya's father, Emperor Akihito.

The engagement must be approved by the 10-member Imperial Council, headed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.



Morioka speaks

Mayumi Morioka speaks to reporters at Prime Minister's official residence in Tokyo after she was appointed as Chief Cabinet Secretary. Morioka succeeds Tokuo Yamashita who resigned earlier because of a sexual liaison (Reuter wirephoto)

Baker to stay out of Paris meeting

PARIS, Aug. 26, (Reuter): Asian foreign ministers began arriving in Paris at the weekend to rescue a 19-nation peace conference on Cambodia, but their superpower counterparts who opened the talks a month ago were conspicuously absent.

The negotiations, deadlocked over the failure of the four warring Cambodian factions to hammer out a power-sharing deal, appeared to be heading for failure.

US Secretary of State James Baker was the first major figure to announce that he would not be attending the three-day concluding ministerial session which is due to begin on Monday.

But diplomats expected that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the Chinese and British Foreign Ministers, Qian Qichen and John Major, would also stay away.

That left France, sponsor and co-president of the Cambodian conference, as the only one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to still be represented at foreign minister level.

A US State Department spokesman said Baker felt the Cambodian government and its Vietnamese backers had not shown enough flexibility over the last month to achieve a settlement with the guerrilla groups which have fought Phnom Penh for 10 years.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who arrived for the closing session on Friday, has steadily refused the demands of the three-party guerrilla coalition to set up a quadripartite interim government giving an equal share of power to the radical Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge, the most powerful force in the guerrilla coalition, are blamed for over a million deaths during their rule between 1975 and 1979, when they were driven from the country by Vietnam.

Hun Sen says he will accept only a limited role for the ultra-leftist Khmer Rouge in an interim authority to organise free elections after Vietnam withdraws its troops in September.

To get even that role, he insists, they must disarm and renounce their previous "genocidal" practices.

Reports of torture

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (AP): The US embassy in Burma says it has "credible" reports that the government is beating and torturing leaders of that country's pro-democracy movement who are in custody, a newspaper reported today.

After weeks of widely circulated but unconfirmed accounts of the torture of political prisoners, "we now have credible, first-hand reports that torture, beatings and mistreatment are commonplace and that in some instances death has resulted," a US embassy cable says, according to the New York Times.

Several Western diplomats based in Rangoon, contacted by the Associated Press, estimated at least 2,000 people have been arrested in the latest sweeps. However, the martial law government on Aug 18 announced that it had arrested 208 persons since July.

"It's certainly in the low thousands, nation-wide," one diplomat said today. "Some people are picked up, held for a while and released. Then some of these may be arrested again."



Kim pledges

South Korea's veteran opposition politician Kim Dae-jung waves to a crowd of 30,000 in a rally outside Seoul today. Kim who was indicted yesterday for breaking anti-communist laws, pledged to fight President Roh Tae-woo's regime to defend himself. (Reuter wirephoto)

Opposition to launch campaign for reforms

Kim under indictment

INCHON, South Korea, Aug. 26, (AP): The leader of South Korea's largest opposition party lashed out today against his indictment in connection with a spy case, saying he would launch a campaign for democratic reforms.

Speaking in this western city, Kim Dae-jung said his Party for Peace and Democracy would push for the "strongest possible" campaign for the reforms in pitching for support from the public, the National Assembly and the judiciary.

He said the campaign would include a petition drive starting in September to press for more democratic rights and rallies in 27 cities to denounce the "repression of dissent" by the government.

On Friday, Kim and two legislators from his party were indicted on charges of failing to inform the authorities about national assemblyman Suh Kyung-Won's secret trip to communist North Korea last year. Suh was a member of Kim's opposition party, but was expelled after his trip was made public.

Kim and the other two legislators were allowed to remain free while awaiting their trial.

National security laws forbid unauthorised travel to North Korea, which the South has defined as an enemy country since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

Kim on Friday called the indictments "tantamount to

the government of (president) Roh Tae-woo declaring it has given up its willingness to carry out reforms toward democracy."

If convicted, Kim, party floor leader Kim Won-Ki and Rep. Lee Chul-Yong could be sentenced to prison terms of up to five years.

Speaking in this western port today, Kim Dae-jung called the indictments an act of political persecution by a government seeking to revert to the former authoritarian practices of disgraced ex-president Chun Doo-Hwan.

"There are over 900 political prisoners in jail. This is more than were jailed at any one time under the Chun Doo-Hwan regime," Kim said, demanding their release.

Kim also charged that "tortures are practiced widely even though the constitution guarantees the rights of suspects to be assisted by counsel."

Opposition lawmakers, radical students and dissidents claim Roh has not moved fast enough in making promised economic and political reforms. The government denies the charges.

North Korea proposed today that three Red Cross delegates each from North and South Korea meet Sept 6 to discuss humanitarian issues, the South Korean Red Cross announced.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Awaiting orders

PARIS, Aug. 26, (Reuter): As Voyager 2 completes its final tour of the giant planets and heads out from Neptune to interstellar space, another unmanned probe that exceeded expectations is awaiting orders from Earth for a new mission.

Like Voyager 2, launched in 1977 by the United States to explore Jupiter and Saturn, the European Space Agency's Giotto spacecraft was originally expected to be exhausted or crippled and heading for oblivion after its main assignment.

But the 600-kg (1,300-pound) craft, launched in 1985, survived intense battering by ultra high-speed particles as it passed through the tail of Halley's Comet in March 1986 to give man his closest look at the core of the mysterious space vagabond.

Docking successful

MOSCOW, Aug. 26, (Reuter): A Soviet space cargo craft docked successfully with the orbiting station Mir yesterday to supply scientific equipment for a manned mission next month, Tass news agency reported.

Tass said the unmanned Progress-M craft, a new type of space vehicle, docked with Mir at 9.19 am Moscow time (0519 GMT).

Two Soviet cosmonauts are due to lift off for Mir on September 6 for a five-month stay on the space station. Mir has been unmanned since April, following criticism of the cost of the Soviet space programme at a time of severe economic problems in the country.

Soviets court

MOSCOW, Aug. 26, (AP): The Soviet Union is courting more Japanese business by dangling the possibility of access to declassified military technology, including the know-how that went into building the Soviet space shuttle, Tass said.

Yesterday, Soviet and Japanese business officials ended a three-day meeting in Moscow. The chiefs of the Japanese delegation were also received in the Kremlin by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The Soviets hope Japan will serve as a source of capital and technology they can use for modernising their country's stagnant economy, especially in the vast, underdeveloped stretches of eastern Siberia.

Vladimir Malkevich, chairman of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, said his delegation made a pitch for more trade by offering access to defence technology that has been declassified in keeping with the reforms of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Policeman suspended BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 6, (AP): A senior Thai policeman indicted in the United States on heroin trafficking charges has been suspended from duty in Bangkok, news reports said today.

A US judicial warrant was issued July 13 for the arrest of assistant police inspector general Maj. Gen. Vech. US officials charged that he was part of a drug smuggling ring controlled by Americans of Asian descent that had smuggled heroin into the United States on at least 15 occasions.

The English-language daily The Nation quoted unidentified sources as saying a police investigating committee had found grounds to the US charges and recommended that Vech be relieved from duty.



Military exercise

A US soldier from the Hawaii-based 487th Regiment 25th Infantry Division keeps a close watch on a captured "enemy" during Australia's largest military exercise held in peacetime involving more than 27,000 Australians and US troops. (Reuter wirephoto)

Vech was allegedly associated with a ring based in New York and Los Angeles. US officials said in Bangkok in announcing his indictment Aug. 3.

Malaysian by-elections

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 26, (KUNA): Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will not reshuffle the cabinet until the next general election.

The prime minister hoped the latest political development would not lead to by-elections in the state. He told a meeting here yesterday, that he had advised PBS officials not to call for by-elections in Sabah as they would be a waste of money and that the government had no idea when a general election would be held.

"If we hold two or three by-elections and later followed by a general election, this would mean a waste of money," he added.

Official visit

MOSCOW, Aug. 26, (KUNA): Indonesian President Ahmad Suharto will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in the first half of September, it was announced here yesterday.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh told a briefing Suharto's visit to Moscow is hoped to boost relations between both countries.

Left-handers given raw deal: psychologist

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Aug. 26, (Reuter): A right-handed Canadian psychologist said yesterday that left-handed people have shorter and far more traumatic lives than right-handers.

"The macabre conclusion to be drawn is that left-handers do not stick around as long," University of British Columbia Professor Stanley Coren said. Coren said his study of 1,896 students found left-handers were 89 per cent more likely to suffer serious accidents.

But that did not mean left-handed people, like artist Pablo Picasso and tennis player John McEnroe, were clumsy.

"They were certainly not more gauche. It's simply the fact that the world is a sinister place for them, the world is very definitely set up for right-handers," he said in an interview.

The results, published in the American Journal of Public Health, show left-handers 85 per cent more likely to have a car crash, 54 per cent more likely to hurt themselves with tools and 49 per cent more susceptible to serious domestic injury.

His four-year study also found that left-handers are 25 per cent more apt to suffer work mishaps and have a 20 per cent greater chance of being injured while playing sports.

Coren added that left-handed men are at great risk when behind the wheel.

Coren said that left-handed men are at great risk when behind the wheel.

100 defy security, cross to Austria

EISENSTADT, Austria, Aug 26, (AP): More than 100 East Germans fleeing their communist homeland defied beefed-up Hungarian border controls and crossed illegally into Austria overnight, according to reports today.

The Austria Press Agency cited unnamed law enforcement officials in Eisenstadt, near the Hungarian border, as saying the East Germans were again crossing into Austria individually or in small family groups. Recently, East Germans had made mass escape attempts.

Hungary announced yesterday that it had ordered squads of the armed workers' militia to border points to strengthen regular units overwhelmed by groups of as many as 500 would-be escapees at a time.

The flight of politically and economically discouraged East Germans into Austria began after Hungary tore down most of the barriers on its side of the border in May.

The move was welcomed in the West as a sign of continuing liberalisation in Hungary, one of the Soviet bloc's most reform-minded countries.

But it has led to Hungarian-East German tensions. East Germany rejects substantive reform.

West German officials estimate that since July about 5,000 East Germans with little chance of obtaining permission to travel to the West have used Hungary — a Warsaw Pact ally that they can visit relatively freely — as an illegal springboard to the West.

West Germany, which considers all East Germans its own citizens, has exerted pressure on Hungary as well, calling for a humane solution to the problem.

The two Germanies also are at odds over a related issue — hundreds of East Germans are refusing to leave West German diplomatic property in Budapest, Hungary, Prague, Czechoslovakia and East Berlin, unless they're guaranteed safe passage to West Germany.

Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth and Foreign Minister Gyula Horn discussed the East German issue yesterday in Bonn with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. No details were made available for their talks.

Austrian radio reported today that Hungarian police and border guards continue to turn back cars with East German licence plates well away from the Austrian border.

Some of those fleeing into Austria's easternmost Burgenland province said Thursday that East German cars no longer were allowed to enter the town of Sopron.

The visit by Nemeth and Horn was not previously announced, indicating that the two governments considered it urgent to meet on the refugee matter.

Few details of the talks were disclosed, but the Foreign Ministry statement said the Hungarians restated their view that the current wave of East German escapes was "a matter to be resolved primarily between West Germany and East Germany."

The Foreign Ministry statement said the Hungarians offered to help resolve the problem.

Bonn had demanded an explanation from Budapest officials for the shooting death of an East German who was trying to escape on Monday, as well as assurances that armed force would not be used against escapees.

The intelligence and security co-ordinator prepares annual reviews of intelligence priorities and performance for the permanent secretaries' committee on the intelligence services.

Jews fast: A group of Soviet Jews said yesterday they are fasting in front of the US embassy to protest the decision to deny them visas to go to the United States.

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The US government, which used to accept almost all the Soviet Jews who applied for immigration, changed its policy last October because of the large number now permitted to leave the Soviet Union.

Press accuses: The Yugoslav press accused Albania yesterday of assimilating its

I hope to see death of communism: Walesa

Railwaymen end strike

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (Agencies): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said yesterday he hoped to see the death of communism in Poland but also rejected US-style capitalism for his country.

"I would want to see the death of communism, the kind of communism that existed in my country until recently," Walesa said in an ABC television interview by satellite from Gdansk. He spoke in Polish through an interpreter.

"We will build a system based on democracy and freedom. It won't be capitalism. It will be a system that will be better than capitalism,"

Walesa added.

Solidarity member Tadeusz Mazowiecki was elected prime minister of Poland on Thursday, the first non-communist to head a government in a Warsaw Pact nation, but Walesa said he was not interested in becoming president of Poland or holding any other political post.

"I don't want to assume this post (president). My nature is not good for being a statesman," He said in response to a question. "My role is to advise the prime minister."



Dole in Poland

Mazowiecki (right) meets US Senator Robert Dole (centre right) and his wife Elizabeth. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protest at Soviet annexation Baltics seek freedom

TALLINN, USSR, Aug 26, (AP): Independence. A year ago, only a few ex-political prisoners dared whisper the word in the three Baltic republics of the Soviet Union.

Today, it is the open goal of a mass movement.

On Wednesday, residents of the Baltics joined hands in a human chain that stretched for 600 kilometres (370 miles) to protest the Soviet annexation of their independent nations 50 years ago.

The protest was the most dramatic sign of the profound changes that have occurred in recent months of the Soviet Union's western frontier.

The mass-membership People's Fronts of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania initially worked for more local authority for their republics within the Soviet Union. Now, the activists are openly calling for a return to independence.

"The declarations of the People's Front in the past year have become ever closer to the ideals our people have carried in their hearts for all these 50 years," said Marju Lauristin, a Parliament member and leader of the Estonian People's Front. "All of us would like to have freedom, and freedom without independence isn't realistic."

More than two million people in the Baltics have signed petitions that imply their goal is freedom from the central communist-run government in Moscow.

■ In Lithuania, 1.3 million people have signed petitions that say the Soviet Union annexed their nation "against the will of Lithuanians." The document calls for removal of the Soviet "occupation army" and seeks UN supervision of three elections for a new local government.

■ In Latvia, 430,000 people have signed documents saying they wanted to be considered citizens of an independent Latvia.

■ In Estonia, more than 400,000 have signed petitions asking the republic's parliament to declare illegal the 1940 Estonian parliament's approval of Soviet annexation. In 1940, the legislature was elected under Soviet occupation and only communists were allowed to run.

Despite the increasingly public nature of the Baltics' yearning for independence, in Moscow the idea of the Soviet Union giving up a strategic piece of territory strikes most Russians as absurd.

The Baltics are front-line territory, home to missile bases, naval and Army units, and vital ports. Activists say one in eight people in Estonia is a Soviet soldier.

Soviet television called the idea of redrawing boundaries "political naivete" in its coverage of Wednesday's protest.

"Independence — it'll never happen," said a taxi driver in Tallinn, who is part-Russian.

The Baltic republics' economies are a wreck, and hope for development of a new tourist industry

ignore their cold, damp climate, he said.

There also is significant opposition to independence among the approximately 2.7 million Russians and other non-Baltic people who live among the eight million residents of the three republics.

Yet independence seemed plausible, even possible, among the tens of thousands of Estonians who held hands on the crest of Tallinn's Toompea hill on Wednesday evening.

Estonia made international headlines last November when its republic claimed the right to overturn Soviet laws. The Kremlin declared the move invalid, but Estonia has not backed down.

The republic's plan for economic autonomy was greeted with derision two years ago, but now has been approved in principle by the new Soviet national legislature.

Recent strikes by Russians in Estonia over a voter residency law disturbed activists, but the Kremlin refrained from ordering the workers back to their jobs and strove for a peaceful compromise.

Alvydas Madalinskas, a leader of the Lithuanian group Sajudis, said his organisation would not exist now if it had spoken of independence as recently as January.

On Wednesday, however, the Sajudis Council voted to call for "creation of an independent Democratic Lithuanian Republic not under the power of the Soviet Union."

A day earlier, the Lithuanian parliament passed a resolution calling the Soviet annexation "an international crime."

In Latvia, the People's Front will vote at its Congress in October on changing its platform to call for a return to full independence, said chairman Ianis Freimanis.

Although the activists are united in their goal, there is wide disagreement on how to achieve independence.

Latvian radicals favour creation of an alternative legislature, while moderates feel it is safer to win control of the existing supreme Soviet.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda yesterday expressed alarm at the explosion of anti-Soviet feeling in Lithuania, and asked what was in store for the republic and the Soviet Union if current trends continued.

■ A car blew up in the centre of Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia, but no-one was hurt, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said today.

Pravda said the blue Lada car, which exploded yesterday evening, was packed with ammunition and explosives. It quoted witnesses as saying the blast sent out a column of flame, breaking windows of a nearby hotel.

The report did not say whether the car had been intended as a bomb or was being used to carrying the explosives.

Walesa said Poland needed aid from the United States and other nations to help deal with its \$39-billion foreign debt. He said Poland would also welcome joint ventures with other countries.

"We have freedom, we want bread," he said.

Meanwhile Poland's new Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, won his first battle over industrial unrest today when railwaymen ended a one-day strike and foundry workers proposed a six-month strike moratorium.

Rail workers in the central city of Lodz headed an appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to go back to work and pledged faith in Mazowiecki, who on Thursday became Poland's first non-communist prime minister in more than 40 years.

Mazowiecki's hopes of winning workers' support for austerity measures to slash soaring inflation and tackle a foreign debt of \$39 billion were boosted by foundry workers in the key industrial city of Katowice.

"We suggest a six-month strike moratorium to give the new government a chance to start effective work on saving the Polish economy and saving Poland," they said in an appeal printed on the front page of the Warsaw newspaper Zycie Warszawy.

Strikes would plunge Poland deeper into crisis and all industrial disputes for the next six months should be solved by negotiations with management, the foundry workers said. All Poles should unite behind their new prime minister, they said.

Katowice and the surrounding region in southwest Poland is the country's main industrial area. It produces most of Poland's steel and coal, its main source of hard currency needed to pay off the crippling foreign debt.

Industrial calm in Poland is important to reassure Moscow that Poland will not fall into anarchy.

Mazowiecki met Friday with emissaries from the superpowers, including US Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Soviet ambassador Vladimir Brovokov.

Brovokov congratulated the new prime minister on his election by the Sejm, the lower house of parliament.

Mrs Dole said the United States would consider new ways to help Poland, but she did not mention financial aid beyond the \$115 million that President George Bush offered during a visit in July.

Solidarity leaders have been hoping for \$10 billion in Western aid.

Vladimir Kryuchkov, head of the Soviet KGB security service, flew to Poland and had talks today with President Wojciech Jaruzelski and acting Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak, Warsaw Radio said, without giving further details.

The foundry workers' proposal echoed an appeal by Walesa yesterday for workers to back Mazowiecki, a veteran adviser to the free trade union Solidarity. He said radical reforms were needed and that Poles should not hinder them by striking.



Escaping tear-gas

Students at the University of the Western Cape flee after police opened fire on them with tear-gas and shotguns. The confrontation followed shortly after a student protest had left three students and a staff member injured. (Reuters wirephoto)

South Africa sounds tough

Protesters arrested

PRETORIA, Aug 26, (Agencies): South African leaders signalled today they would order fresh action against a pre-election anti-apartheid campaign in which 60 people have died so far.

Acting President F.W. de Klerk said the government would never allow a recurrence of a 1984-87 nation-wide revolt, which was suppressed with the help of emergency powers still in force.

"We cannot allow that those who propagate violence and intimidation in the name of peaceful protest should succeed with their plans," De Klerk said at the opening of an exhibition in Pretoria.

Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok, who is in charge of the police, also indicated a further crackdown was likely.

"South Africa cannot afford to be subjected to the same spiral of violence that existed before the state of emergency was declared," Vlok told a meeting of police generals.

"It is therefore the duty of the government to protect lives and property with the powers vested in it. This we will fulfil with responsibility and diligence," he said.

Vlok said 60 people had been killed since the campaign against apartheid and racially segregated elections on Sept 6 was unveiled in late July.

South Africa's black majority is excluded from the parliamentary elections, in which whites, coloureds (mixed-race) and ethnic Indians vote for separate houses of parliament.

State-run radio said Vlok's speech meant firm action was likely against the campaign in coming weeks.

Police have already arrested scores of students, teachers and activists since the start of August when a coalition called the Mass Democratic Movement launched its campaign.

Police armed with shotguns, tear-gas, rubber bullets and whips have clashed repeatedly with protesters, with most violence in the black and mixed-race townships near Cape Town.

Riot police using tear-gas and shotguns clashed with anti-apartheid protesters yesterday in eight townships near Cape Town. Three youths were wounded by police gunfire, and two black men reportedly were killed by rioters.

The unrest is linked to a nation-wide defiance campaign launched by major anti-apartheid groups. As part of the campaign, dozens of blacks successfully sought treatment yesterday at a whites-only hospital wing in the port city of East London, and clergymen announced plans to defy bus segregation laws in the capital city, Pretoria.

Police today arrested 30 demonstrators in Cape Town protesting a controversial rugby tour by a squad of international stars.

Two separate demonstrations, held hours before the start of a match in Cape Town, were part

Pretoria sanctions are not foolproof

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 26, (AP): The world is tightening its economic boycott of South Africa, but the apartheid state exploits loopholes such as foreign registration, mislabelling and third-party shipping to carry on trade, says a new report.

Among the most vigorous proponents of sanctions are the black front-line states of southern Africa, which ironically carry on considerable trade with South Africa and are tied to it by railroads and power lines. These nations do not ban bilateral trade with South Africa.

The report issued this week from the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations notes that in recent years the front-line states have become transshipment points for South African goods.

Among other South African tactics cited in the report are these:

— Mislabelling export goods such as textiles sent to the United States, applies to Europe and wines to Canada.

— Illegal transfer of ownership on oil shipments to skirt the ban on such shipments from oil-producing states.

— Transshipment of goods through other states. South Africa's textile industry, for example, makes extensive use of foreign factories to complete the manufacture of fabrics and assemble garments.

— Sending South African coal to European ports that do not ban it, primarily Rotterdam and Antwerp, where it is mixed with other nations' coal to produce "Dutch blend" or simply relabelled as Dutch and shipped.

— Turning to the booming Far Eastern nations for increased trade as North American and European nations have tightened their sanctions.

Still, most governments have responded to appeals by the General Assembly for a voluntary sanctions on South Africa.

"As a result, broad geographical and economic areas and sectors have been left outside the reach of South Africa, or avoidance practices in these areas have imposed additional costs on its economy," the report says.

The centre notes that "markets for South African products have declined in size, indicating that efforts to evade sanctions have been only partially successful."

The report did not set an exact figure on the cost of sanctions to South Africa, but noted the country's economy has been weak through the 1980s with a growth rate below 1.5 per cent a year.

Official unemployment rates among South African blacks is at least 15 per cent and unofficial estimates are much higher. In addition, the country has a foreign debt of \$22 billion, three-fourths of it owed to transnational banks.

The General Assembly has been urging nations and companies to shun South Africa since 1962.

Thatcher appoints: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has appointed Sir Christopher Curwen, the former head of MI6, as co-ordinator of intelligence and security based in the cabinet office, according to a report here today.

The Guardian newspaper said Sir Christopher, who is 60, replaces Sir Colin Figueres, also a former head of MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, nominally responsible to the Foreign Secretary.

The intelligence and security co-ordinator prepares annual reviews of intelligence priorities and performance for the permanent secretaries' committee on the intelligence services.

Jews fast: A group of Soviet Jews said yesterday they are fasting in front of the US embassy to protest the decision to deny them visas to go to the United States.

"We have just been drinking water since Monday," said Edward Leitman, who has lived for seven months with his wife and daughter in Ladispoli, a coastal town north of Rome. "This may possibly make them change their minds."

The US government, which used to accept almost all the Soviet Jews who applied for immigration, changed its policy last October because of the large number now permitted to leave the Soviet Union.

Press accuses: The Yugoslav press accused Albania yesterday of assimilating its

Slavic minority and forging figures in a census last April.

An article by Tanjug news agency published in all Belgrade newspapers said there were 120,000 Slavs in Albania before World War Two.

"After decades of persecution and assimilation... Albanian authorities have counted and presented to the international public that in the 'Land of Eagles' live 1,697 Macedonians and 100 Montenegrins, Serbs and Croats," the article said.

Fail to consider: Many studies predicting manmade global warming fail to consider that the Earth could heat things up more by responding with its own climate-shifting effects, scientists at a US-Soviet conference said yesterday.

Until now, scientists have predicted global warming would be based largely on the rising levels of carbon dioxide and other atmospheric gases produced by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and logging of forests.

Many say that such warming, left unchecked, could drastically alter world-wide weather patterns and increase polar-ice melting, thereby raising the sea level and flooding coastal regions.

Government rejects: The government today rejected a call by the Holy Synod, ruling body of the orthodox Church of Greece, for the release of the military dictators held in an Athens jail since the collapse of the junta in 1974.

"The government was never concerned with



Raid on supermarket

A supermarket employee who was stabbed in the chest foiling a raid is carried to an ambulance outside a London supermarket in the Fulham Road today. A Scotland Yard spokesman said the 24-year-old man later died in hospital. The raider fled from the supermarket empty-handed. (Reuters wirephoto)

the subject and it does not comment on Holy Synod announcements," said government spokesman Athanasios Kanellopoulos.

The military seized power in April 1967 and

was toppled in July 1974, after engineering an abortive coup in Cyprus which led to a Turkish invasion of the northern part of the independent eastern Mediterranean island.

Soldiers raid Arab villages

Palestinian dies after being shot

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 26, (Agencies): A young Palestinian man died in hospital today after being shot by Israeli soldiers during a clash in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

All Mohammed Sha'aban, 23, was shot by troops combating stone-throwers in Jabalya refugee camp yesterday.

His death raised the toll in the 20-month-long Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to at least 612 Palestinians and 40 Jews.

Arab hospital officials said troops also shot and wounded two Palestinians during clashes in Gaza after four people were injured in scattered overnight protests.

In Nabulus in the West Bank, residents said they heard gunshots and saw tear-gas from a prison where Palestinians are held. The Army said it was checking their report.

Israeli troops today raided several Arab villages in the occupied West Bank and battled Palestinian youths who built makeshift barricades on a central Gaza city street and hurled stones from rooftops, Palestinian reports said.

A former military governor of the West Bank, meanwhile, warned that the situation in the occupied lands could deteriorate and that the Palestinians may employ more violent means unless there is a progress in the stalled peace process.

In scattered clashes in the West Bank, two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Army troops today, Arab hospital officials said. One of the wounded was a 13-year-old boy reported in serious condition with a gunshot to the neck.

Arab journalists said soldiers raided at least three villages in the Ramallah area to arrest suspected uprising ringleaders.

The army also clamped a curfew on the village of Dura near the West Bank town of Hebron after villagers there burned several houses owned by an alleged pro-Israeli collaborator and his relatives, Arab reporters said.

Palestinian journalists reported from Gaza city the clash on the Omar El-Mukhtar street lasted for at least one hour. They said Arab youths blocked the street with stone barricades and burning tires and threw stones at soldiers from rooftops.

Troops responded with gunfire from their observation posts atop the nearby buildings. However no casualties were reported in the clash.

Young Palestinians who kidnapped an Israeli gold dealer intended to demand a swap with Palestinian activists arrested by Israeli security sources said.

Israel's Shin Bet secret police yesterday pulled Sha'ul Mashanyia from a West Bank well in which Arab kidnappers had held him for nearly two days.

Mashanyia, captured while collecting business debts in the occupied territory, was the first Israeli to be abducted since an uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip began 20 months ago.

These sources said more violence and kidnappings are feared as younger activists become more powerful while the influence of older men wanes, in part because some of them have met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Mashanyia, 46, spent 40 hours in the dry well in Abush village in the Tulkarm area before he was rescued.

An Army spokesman said Shin Bet agents were led to Mashanyia by a suspect they detained on Thursday.

In June, uprising activists kidnapped American social worker Chris George, but quickly



Mishanyia (centre) and Major-General Yitzhak Mordochai (left) inspect the well in Abush village in which Mishanyia was found. (Reuters wirephoto)

Radicals in held areas Hezbollah formed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 26, (Reuters): A leaflet circulated in Jerusalem yesterday announced the establishment of the radical Islamic Hezbollah group in the Israeli-occupied territories, Palestinians said.

"The jihad with faith and the gun against Jewish injustice and American arrogance is a human necessity," the leaflet proclaimed.

"Beware of disobeying God and adopting the morals of the devil and of being involved with political parties to whom God did not give political authority," it warned Palestinians.

It was the first time the name of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, believed to be holding several Western hostages, has been invoked in the occupied territories.

It was not clear if the handbill was genuine, or whether the Lebanese Shiite Muslim movement had any following among Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

Two other Palestinian fundamentalist groups — the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the radical Islamic Jihad — are already active in the 20-month-old anti-Israeli uprising.

The leaflet made no reference to Iran or Lebanon and did not say if the new group was Shiite. The overwhelming majority of Muslims in the occupied territories are followers of the main Sunni branch of Islam.

Palestinian and Israeli sources say Iran has given some financial support to Islamic Jihad but has little influence in the occupied territories, partly because of the Shia-Sunni split and partly because of its long war against Arab Iraq.

released him after uprising leaders condemned the act as detrimental to the Palestinian cause.

The PLO is ready to discuss the Israel elections for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, a PLO leader was quoted as saying today in Abu Dhabi.

PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Ithad that the PLO would not allow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to negotiate an independent settlement with Israel.

"But the PLO is ready to form

a delegation comprising Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories to open a dialogue with Israeli leaders to discuss elections as part of a comprehensive settlement," he was quoted as saying.

In an interview in Cairo, Abbas said the PLO was already holding indirect talks with Israel, but did not elaborate.

Last week, the PLO said it had ordered a stop to independent Palestinian contacts with Israel, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, because it could be seen as tacit approval of Palestinian contacts with Israel other than through the PLO.

Cairo arrests drug smugglers

CAIRO, Aug 26, (UPI): Two Israelis and six Arab nationals have been arrested and charged with drug smuggling, press reports said today.

The reports said the eight are members of an international ring charged with attempting to smuggle millions of dollars worth of heroin and hashish into Egypt.

Two Israelis, identified as Badawi Mossa Golami and Yalcoub Mezrahi and a Palestinian — Ali Soliman Salem — were arrested by the Israeli anti-drug authorities late last month in Israel as they prepared to smuggle eight million worth of heroin into Egypt through Jordan.

Mohammed Berron, one of two Lebanese nationals involved in the ring, has been also arrested. Golami and Berron had been convicted to death by a Cairo court who tried the then fugitives for another attempt to smuggle what police said were 18 tonnes of hashish into Egypt last year.

French delegates cancel Chad visit

PARIS, Aug 26, (Reuters): A French parliamentary delegation abruptly cancelled an official visit to Chad yesterday citing what it called the sudden deterioration in relations between the two countries.

The decision was announced by Jean-Pierre Boucheron, chairman of the National Assembly's Defence Committee, who was to have gone to Ndjamena with six other Members of Parliament.

"The sudden deterioration of Franco-Chadian relations does not create the conditions for a constructive

dialogue," Boucheron said in a statement.

He did not elaborate and neither the Foreign nor Defence Ministries in Paris was willing to comment.

But the cancellation came 48 hours after Chad publicly criticised the commander of France's 1,700-strong military contingent in its former colony.

A government communique accused Colonel Hugues Poncet on Wednesday of allowing French pilots to perform risky manoeuvres above the Chadian capital, endangering the public.

PLO wants to join tourism body

PARIS, Aug 26, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is campaigning for international recognition, will seek to become a member of the world body running tourism next week, diplomatic and other sources said yesterday.

The World Tourism Organisation, which has 107 member states including Israel, has a six-day meeting starting in Paris on Monday. At least 50 tourism ministers are due to attend.

A French official organising the meeting said: "We expect they (PLO) will formally make the application on Monday. At this stage it is difficult to predict the outcome."

Since the creation of a Palestinian state was proclaimed last November, the PLO has tried to gain entry into international organisations and United Nations agencies.

Both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) voted this year to shelve the Palestinian applications after prolonged and heated debate.

The PLO drive is fiercely opposed by Israel and also by the



A crying Palestinian girl and other girls leave an area where Israeli troops detained many Palestinian men (not seen to left of photo). (Reuters wirephoto)

United States and other Western nations. They argue that until Palestine exists as a sovereign territory the PLO cannot sit with other states.

Diplomatic sources in Paris

said representatives of the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) nations met yesterday

to try to forge a common position on the PLO application. The outcome was not known.

165 narrowly escape disaster

Boeing hits radar

ISTANBUL, Aug 26, (Reuters): A Boeing airliner carrying 165 people narrowly escaped disaster when it hit a radar antenna after takeoff from Ankara airport bound for the Netherlands, Turkish airport official said today.

The fuselage and left wing of the Toros Air Boeing 727-200 charter plane were damaged and the pilot made an emergency landing after circling and dumping fuel, the official said.

"When we were first taking off, we hit the ground twice. Then we saw smoke coming out of the wing. The hostesses went round trying to keep up our morale, then we landed," Turkish passenger Orhan Odemis told the Anatolian news agency.

No one was hurt aboard the 20-year-old plane which was on a flight to Maastricht yesterday. An alternative flight was being arranged today, the officials said.

Most of the passengers were Turks travelling to Europe for work.

"The plane couldn't get enough altitude. I am still waiting for a report on why this happened," Ismet Erustun, general manager of the Istanbul-based Toros Air Charter Company, told Reuters.

The airliner hit the four-metre (13-ft) high instrument landing system (ILS) antenna 300 metres (330 yards) after the end of the runway, Erustun said.

French held for firing at Muslims

GRENOBLE, France, Aug 26, (Reuters): A member of France's ultra-right National Front was briefly detained after firing at a group of Muslims in a town where local authorities destroyed a mosque last week, police said today.

Jacky Portocarrion, the National Front representative in Chavannes-Chavagnon, near Grenoble, was questioned by police late yesterday after firing a shotgun at a crowd of Muslims. Police said no one was injured.

Portocarrion, who said his shotgun cartridges were packed with wheat, was released this morning. No charges have yet been filed.

He told reporters after his release that he opened fire after hearing a shot he believed had been fired by a group of angry young Muslims who had hurled stones at his car.

"If it were to happen again I would do the same thing. We're not going to let ourselves be molested by Arabs," he said.

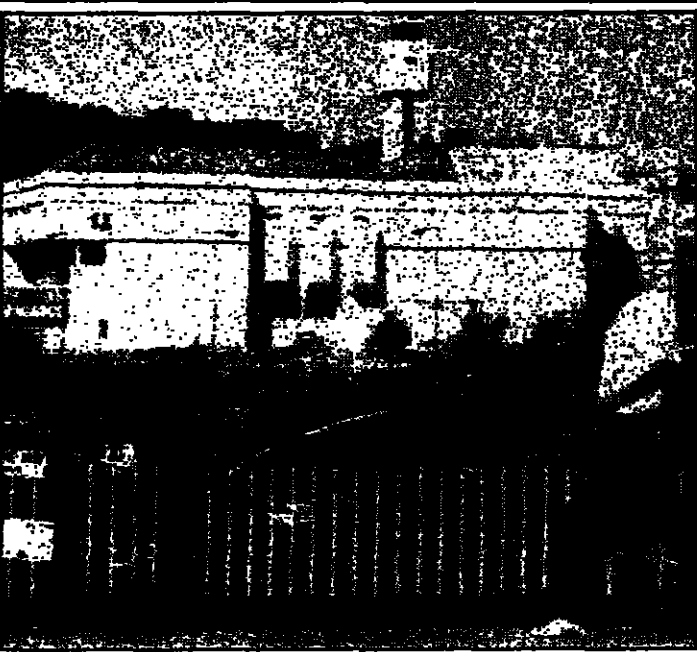
The incident occurred the same day a leader of the extreme right-wing party condemned plans to rebuild the town's mosque.

"Freedom of religion must not serve as a pretext for the Islamisation of France," said Bruno Megret, the National Front's third ranking official. "We do not want to see mosques mushrooming across the country."

The bulldozing of the southeastern town's mosque 10 days ago sent shock waves through France's three million Muslims and drew a promise on Thursday from a right-wing mayor of Grenoble, Alain Carignon, to build a new place of worship.

Muslim immigrants, who make up 11 per cent of Chavannes-Chavagnon's 8,000 inhabitants, held their Friday prayers in the streets for the second time since the mosque was destroyed.

The local town hall and gymnasium were charred by fires started by arsonists after the mosque, set up in a condemned building, was razed on orders from Gerard Desmoutte, the town's right-wing mayor.



The West's major Islamic centre, seen in Madrid, housing a mosque and cultural facilities, is a gift from the Saudi royalty and will be inaugurated next month. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gift from Saudi royalty

The West's major Islamic centre, seen in Madrid, housing a mosque and cultural facilities, is a gift from the Saudi royalty and will be inaugurated next month. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN chief to meet

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 26, (KUNA): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet with the heads of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations during the non-aligned summit meeting in Belgrade early next month, UN spokeswoman Francois Chuliani said yesterday.

Contrary to earlier reports, however, the delegations will not be headed by the foreign ministers of those two countries, he said.

Meanwhile, technical talks between Iraq and Iran concluded yesterday in Geneva with a meeting of the secretary-general's special envoy Jan Eliasson and Riyadh Al Quasbi, director of the Department for International Organisation at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Food crisis

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 26, (Reuters): Ethiopia's northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray, ravaged by civil wars, may face a critical food shortage next year because of the lack of rain this year, a government report said today.

The report by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said the region's livestock also would be badly hit by the lack of rains during the main June-July farming season.

The two provinces, with some six million people, have been torn by prolonged civil wars which have killed hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Visa fraud

LOS ANGELES, Aug 26, (UPI): A man believed to be the top US representative of an Iranian political group has been arrested for alleged visa fraud at Los Angeles International Airport, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said Thursday.

Alladdin Touran, 33, of Stockholm, who is believed to be a ranking member of the People's Mojahedin Organisation, was arrested Monday afternoon, said FBI spokeswoman Bobi Wallace in Washington.

Touran was charged with visa fraud, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$2,000, for entering the United States on an allegedly fraudulently obtained visa at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, Wallace said.

Jury indicts

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota, Aug 26, (AP): A US grand jury has indicted a New Jersey-based company and two of its officers on charges of illegally exporting a corrosion-inhibiting product to Libya from a Minnesota subsidiary, US attorney Jerry Arnold says.

The aid is part of a co-operation programme between the two countries providing for the extension of \$120 million aimed at developing and upgrading the activities of the Moroccan health department in different fields.

American aid

RABAT, Aug 26, (KUNA): The United States of America is to extend to Morocco \$31 million to promote the Moroccan health efforts in family planning, child and mother health care and the struggle against AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Talks held on Lebanon

Syrian FM visits Jordan

AMMAN, Aug 26, (Reuters): Syria's foreign minister, on a previously unannounced visit to Jordan, discussed the Lebanese conflict today with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker.

"Our talks focused on the situation in Lebanon and we had an extensive and broad exchange of views on that matter," Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara told reporters after almost three hours of talks at the prime minister's office.

In Cairo, government sources said Jordan's King Hussein would visit Egypt tomorrow to discuss Lebanon and other Middle East peace efforts with President Hosni Mubarak.

They said King Hussein, who had talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Baghdad last week, would only spend a few hours in Cairo.

Shara said he and Shaker held detailed talks on developments in the region and on Lebanon, where Syria has an estimated 33,000 troops. He declined to elaborate any further.

The state-run news agency Petra said Jordan and Syria agreed to intensify Arab peace efforts, but did not say if they backed any particular peace formula.

"The two sides reaffirmed the need to boost joint Arab efforts to end the Lebanese crisis which is a weak point in Arab national security," the agency said.

Jordan, a close ally of Iraq and a friend of Damascus, has urged Arab leaders to act immediately to halt the bloodshed in Lebanon and has implicitly criticised Syria's role there.

At least 760 people have been killed since mid-March in artillery battles between the Christian-led army, which has received arms from Iraq, and Syrian forces backing Muslim and leftist militias.

At an Arab League Summit in Casablanca in May, King Hussein proposed sending equal contingents of Arab peacekeeping troops from 10 countries to Lebanon, but Syria blocked the idea.

The king has said his proposal

is still on the table and could be discussed at a future emergency Arab League summit.

The English-language Jordan Times newspaper said Lebanon's only hope now appeared to be effective international action with Arab guidance.

"Therefore it is incumbent upon Arab states to launch contacts with the international powers with a view to ensuring that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as the Arab character of Lebanon are preserved," it said.

In other developments Iran today cautiously welcomed the scaling down of France's naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean and said any military intervention in Lebanon could spark an inferno.

"The French government has again implicitly admitted its policy in Lebanon has been wrong. Changing the deployment of its fleet... means a retreat," Tehran radio said.

It said the strong Muslim reaction "plus the very important element of Western hostages have led France to think of abandoning basty policies in Lebanon."

France announced on Thursday it was cutting back a planned eight-ship task force off Lebanon to five and was keeping the vessels far from the Lebanese coast.

Paris said the fleet was sent for humanitarian reasons and would evacuate French citizens in Lebanon if necessary.

■ Arab League Envoy Clovis Maksoud said yesterday Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's appeal for a ceasefire and continued Arab peace efforts in Lebanon presented a "unique opportunity to pull Lebanon from the brink of dismemberment."

■ The Cyprus government today stopped daily flights by military helicopter between Cyprus and Lebanon's besieged Christian enclave, authoritative sources reported.

■ Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in North Yemen today to discuss what he described as the dangerous developments in Lebanon.

Kurds kill soldier in highway attack

Turkish passengers unharmed

ISTANBUL, Aug 26, (Reuters): Kurdish rebels forced passengers from a bus, killed an off-duty Turkish soldier among them, then let the other travellers go in a rare attack on the main Ankara-Istanbul highway.

Anatolian news agency said today. The rebels shot dead Private Erdal Oturan after shouting "separatist slogans," the agency said.

In last night's attack, the 10-man "separatist traitor" band burned four trucks loaded with timber after using a barricade across the road between Erzurum and Kars to force the vehicles to stop.

"Separatists" are usually Kurdish rebels of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that has fought since 1984 for an independent nation for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

A Kurdish "village guard" pro-government militiaman was killed and three people were wounded in a PKK-army clash today near the Turkish border with Iraq, security sources said.

Nearly 1,600 people have been killed in the violence in the southeast which Prime Minister Turgut Ozal plans to visit on Monday and Tuesday.

Meanwhile the outlawed Kurdistan Communist Party claimed today its forces seized a military base in north-western Iran last week, killed several Iranian soldiers and captured weapons and ammunition.

A statement from the party, Komala, claimed that at least 10 Iranian soldiers were taken prisoner in the attack on the Smaghloo base near Saqqez in the mountainous Kurdistan province of Iran.

The statement was telexed to the Associated Press in Cyprus from Sweden. It could not be independently verified.

Earlier this month, Komala forces ambushed a military convoy of the Islamic Republic travelling from Saqqez to Baneh, also in Kurdistan, the statement said. The area is about 390 kilometres (240 miles) west of Tehran.

'Highlight uprising'

TUNIS, Aug 26, (KUNA): Arab information ministers yesterday stressed the significance of Arab media's commitment to vital national Arab causes on top of them the Palestinian intifada (uprising) in the occupied territories.

In a political declaration they issued here yesterday at the end of their 24th session, the ministers affirmed that the Arab media should fully project the daily developments of the intifada in such a manner that would mobilise the national feeling and carry the message of that heroic revolt to the outside world.

The ministers lauded the intifada as an ultimate historic reply to the Israeli occupation and called for intensifying information activities and give the uprising priority in coverage on both Arab and global levels.

Kuwait, Egypt serve each other's interests

Amir flies to Cairo tomorrow



HH the Amir

KUWAIT, Aug 26, (KUNA): HH the Amir flies to Cairo Monday on a visit described by analysts as a fresh beginning in Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations on all fronts.

Relations between the two sisterly countries have been good in general as contact channels remained intact although diplomatic ties were ruptured in the past ten years.

Although President Hosni Mubarak inherited a heavy legacy from his predecessor Anwar Sadat, he made great strides in mending fences with many Arab states, including Kuwait.

The two sides have done a great deal in serving each other's interests, as Kuwait contributes to rebuilding the Egyptian economy through loans and investments, while Cairo allows Kuwaiti nationals to own houses and issued a law safeguarding their investments.

The Egyptian workforce has contributed significantly to the Kuwaiti market, as Kuwait is keen to employ Arab labourers, in order to maintain its traditions and values, not to mention its security.

On the military and security level, Kuwait's independence in 1961 was widely blessed by the Egyptian leadership, while Kuwait contributed financially to rebuilding the Egyptian armed forces following the 1967 war with Israel.

Moreover, Kuwait dispatched one of its best-trained Army battalions to defend the western bank of the Suez Canal in 1967.

Also Egypt was deeply concerned over Kuwait's security during the Gulf war.

On the political front, both countries clearly back all Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian question. They

also supported Iraq during its war with Iran.

Both sides agree that the situation in Lebanon poses a threat to that country's well-being, paves the way for foreign interventions and weakens Arab efforts toward drawing support for the Palestinian cause.

Egypt and Kuwait have also called for peace, disarmament and protecting human rights, as they strongly oppose the racial discrimination policy practiced in Pretoria and Tel Aviv.

The two countries have displayed profound worry over the heavy debts of the Third World estimated at \$1,300 billion, as HH the Amir has proposed before the general assembly last September to abolish interests on debts of developing nations to developed ones.

President Mubarak, for his part, has asserted that the debts problem can only be resolved through a conference

grouping debtors and creditors.

The forthcoming summit meeting of the two leaders of the Muslim and African worlds in Egypt will have special importance, said Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah.

Sheikh Jaber, speaking to Egyptian daily "Al Ahram" hailed the visit by HH the Amir of Kuwait and current Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Sheikh Jaber Al Hamad Al Sabah to Egypt and his meeting with President Hosni Mubarak who also chairs the Organisation of African Unity.

He attached great political and historical importance to the two leaders' talks due to the current delicate phase and regional and international developments.

About Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, the minister said that Kuwait

sees national and economic importance in such investments, pointing out that Kuwait is the biggest investor in Egypt.

He spoke of his recent visit to Cairo and described it as very successful and fruitful.

Planning Minister Dr Abdul-Rahman Al Awadhi on the other hand said in a statement the upcoming visit to Egypt by HH the Amir will have a significant impact on the state of affairs in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The three-day visit which begins on Monday will cement ties between the two Arab countries in the face of external schemes to crack the unity of the Arab world.

The minister expected the two heads of state to discuss Lebanon at length, saying the two leaders are fully aware of the need for the Arab states to join forces in trying to solve this perennial crisis and to spare the Arab nation

further losses. Awadhi indicated that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt would also be a key topic during the Egyptian-Kuwaiti summit as HH the Amir expressed interest in increasing the country's investment in Egypt.

The trend would be put in force in a way to secure greater economic and political co-ordination between the two sides, he said.

KUNA board chairman and director-general Barges Hmoud Al Barges has said that HH the Amir's visit to Egypt will crown the strong relations between the two peoples and criticised Arab media coverage of the Palestinian intifada.

Barges, in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, said that HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Kuwait government appreciate Egypt's stands toward Arab and Islamic causes.

Blackouts Residents of Wafra reassured by MEW

By Salem Al Wawan

ACTING undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Mahmoud Baqer has said that the ministry is concerned about improving its services under all circumstances to fulfill the directives of HH the Amir.

Speaking to Sevassah, Arab Times he said that the ministry's first and last concern was the consumer, and that as such more plans were constantly being developed and efforts continuously exerted to improve the level of services rendered to consumers.

Asked about the ministry's arrangements regarding the Wafra farms continuous power supply network, he said that a special emergency office had been set up in the area and that contacts were currently under way with the Ministry of Communications to provide this office with the required communication services, after that the office would be expected to be operational within 10 days.

Control

He pointed out that with the operation of the office all power-related problems would easily be brought under control, and therefore farmers could feel reassured that the ministry was working hard to prevent any inconveniences happening to them again.

On the other hand, Baqer pointed out, the ministry had connected the power supply to Wafra village in co-operation with the Getty Oil Company, which is the agency responsible for the power supply connection to the area.

He blamed electrical overload for most power failures at home in the village, starting with the burning of the safety fuses and subsequent blackouts.

He said that radical measures and effective steps were being taken to end this problem, meanwhile all were urged to co-operate with the ministry and cut down on excessive unnecessary power consumption.

Rents and rations eat away salaries

Purchasing power dwindles

By Ali Al Mosaudi

ECONOMICS are not only pivotal to countries of the world in bringing about social stability and order, but are a vital ingredient in the daily life of individuals.

According to recent studies undertaken, it has been determined that most people complain that their salaries vanish by the middle of the month and added that the necessity for food and clothing are second only to rents. Expatriates said that rents appropriate the majority of the income and what little is left is paid out for consumables.

Husbands complained that their wives have no limit in spending at co-operative societies and do not appreciate that their husbands salaries should be dispensed on a "shoe-string." They added that with the present economic situation in the region, salaries have not only remained static but with depreciation, it has eaten into their purchasing power. Additionally, they said

that the increase in rent every five years contributes even more adversely to the situation. Salaries do not increase proportionally and after working for five years, their actual take-home pay is less than what it used to be five-years back — a direct result of the increase in rents, they said.

Expenses

One consumer, Zaki Al Din said that he goes to a co-operative society with the express purpose of purchasing tissues, but invariably comes out with a large number of bags filled with various commodities — particularly food. Food, he said, is a commodity that one cannot do without and consequently he spends between KD50-60 in these items at the co-operative alone.

Another consumer, Fahd Mohammad said that on an average he spends about KD5 daily at the co-operative society, and although he admitted that the prices are reasonable, by the middle of the month he finds that his salary has disappeared. His

son Abdul Aziz said that he visits the co-operative society daily and takes his daily meals from a nearby restaurant and even though he spends very reasonably, his savings are practically nil and more often than not he has to call on his family to help him out financially.

Most consumers interviewed stressed on the large discrepancies between the various co-operative societies. One lady, who did not want to be identified said that in her area, the prices of co-operative society is inordinately high as compared to other such facilities. Thus, it necessitates her travelling to other societies that are quite a distance away from her residence to enable her to save some money.

Arguments

Some housewives accused the men-folk for being responsible for the quick drain of their monthly salary. They said that they spend on non-essentials such as cigarettes, entertainment, needless outings and do not work out a budget.

Six kilos hashish seized from Asian at airport

AN ASIAN worker returning to Kuwait from his country last Thursday was apprehended by customs officials at Kuwait Airport for trying to smuggle six kilos hashish, according to Abdul Razzak Al Ubaid, assistant director of General Customs Authority for airport exits.

The official said that the accused who works for a private company in Kuwait mixed the hashish with Henna in order to camouflage its smell. However, the customs officials were put on alert when they noticed the accused "chain smoking" and undertook a thorough search. The inspectors noticed that the hand bag of the accused was inordinately heavy although it was empty. The bottom of the bag was broken open and the hashish was discovered.

The defendant claimed that the bag was given to him as a gift and he was unaware of its contents. Ubaid estimated the seized contraband's value to be in the vicinity of KD18,000.

The contraband and the accused have been

referred to investigation authorities.

Ubaid called on relevant authorities to award the death penalty to smugglers of hashish and narcotics as in some Arab countries. He added that in Kuwait smugglers know that they will only be jailed when arrested. He further stated that customs officials seized about 18 kilos of hashish and heroin during last week. He added that narcotics merchants have now begun smuggling narcotics through persons who do not take narcotics in order not to be suspected. The contraband is hidden in several ingenious ways, the official said.

Rehabilitation

The Criminal Court acquitted a man accused of possessing and trading in drugs, but ordered that another accused in the same case be admitted to a health centre for a period of one year for rehabilitation and to a fine of KD50 for smuggling the drugs into Kuwait.

Arab info Special strategy council planned

TUNIS, Aug 26, (KUNA): Arab Information Ministers Friday called for the formation of a specialised ministerial council to deal with information issues in the Arab world citing the vital role of media in policy making and public opinion on global level.

Concluding their 24th session, the ministers urged member states to co-ordinate capabilities and potentials in media spheres to serve Arab causes, upgrade cultural standard of Arab people, protect them against foreign cultural invasion and maintain values of Arab and Islamic civilisation.

The two-day ministerial meeting — the 24th session of the Arab information ministers — envisaged the importance of formulating all Arab information plans, programmes and projects within a framework that should be governed by a specialised ministerial council.

Tasks

The proposed council will include information ministers of the member states and will serve as governing body of information activities provided that it must be entrusted with tasks such as planning, implementing, overseeing and following up Arab media activities.

The meeting recommended that basic charter and regulations of the proposed council be drawn up and presented to the forthcoming 25th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council.

The ministers adopted several resolutions and recommendations, put forward by the 47th session of the Permanent Arab Information Committee, concluded here last Tuesday, including proposals of an Arab information strategy to cover the international scene for 1990.

Referring to the Arab satellite link-up in the information field, the ministers approved a project of the lease of a regional channel on the ARABSAT to be used for the benefit of institutions of Arab broadcasting stations union in order to exchange daily news and reports about important events, cultural and technical festivals and sport tournaments.

The meeting asked the administration of ARABSAT to report to the ministerial council on plans and studies adopted in this regard and to prepare detailed studies that would ensure the best utilisation of the Arab satellite.

Plan

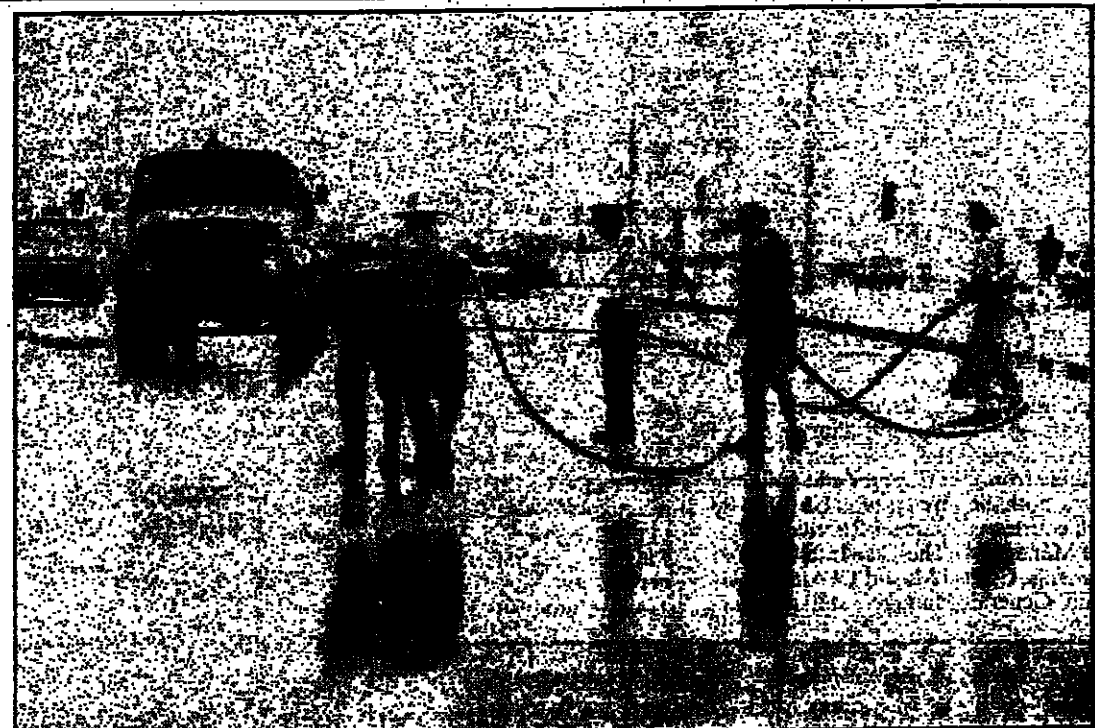
On the Afro-Arab co-operation in the information and communication fields, the ministers resolved the convening of a meeting for senior Arab and African information experts to draw up a joint information plan that will cover all African aspects and serve as basis for setting up a joint committee of co-operation.

The meeting stressed the importance of holding the proposed Afro-Arab journalistic gathering on the Palestinian uprising in Naoukchott.

SHOP FOR SALE

Shop reputed for gifts and luxuries in main street of Farwaniya (near Al Jazeera Pharmacy) is available for sale as its owner is leaving Kuwait.

Interested may call 4839821 (mornings only)



Cooking oil spill

Hundreds of cooking oil containers spilled their contents in Shuwaikh as the truck carrying them tipped over. Firemen vacuumed the huge amounts of oil from the road as cars crashed into each other because of the slippery surface. No one was injured. (Photo by Ahmed Burini)

Breast cancer

Self-examining technique most effective: Jazzaf

By Mahmoud Morsi

HEAD of the Cancer Control and Prevention Unit at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre, Dr Hussain Al Jazzaf announced that the awareness campaign against breast cancer and the Breast Self-Examination programme, launched in Kuwait two years ago, has achieved excellent results. He said that the monthly practice of the Breast Self-Examination technique is the most efficient measure for the early detection of breast cancer. He said that the programme included launching of an extensive awareness campaign, centred on women, to use this method in detection of this disease.

He added that the campaign was launched through radio, TV, local press and through holding seminars and lectures. Dr Jazzaf called for co-operation between the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre and other specialised centres in the country to begin a programme aimed in its first stage at training nurses on BSE and later assigning these nurses to train women particularly patients about ways to use this important method.

Method

He said that studies have revealed that 50 per cent of women who have learnt the BSE are practising this method on a monthly basis while 30 per cent of

women who received no training are also practicing it. He added that studies also found that women who received training at the hands of nurses to use the BSE were more efficient and accurate in applying the method.

Dr Jazzaf said that breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among ladies in Kuwait and is a major cause of death. He said that the chances of saving the life of breast cancer patients are considerable provided it is discovered early. He emphasised that although tests on discovering breast cancer, have recently improved, the BSE and the normal doctor check-up still remain the most efficient methods on discovering the disease. He added that 70 per cent of breast tumours are discovered by the ladies themselves.

He said that the major causes that prevent ladies from carrying out the BSE, was found to be the women's fear from finding undesirable things, lack of confidence in applying the test and also lack of enough knowledge. He said that the test is very simple, and requires only 5-10 minutes. It also supplies women information about the natural size and shape that the breasts should be. Moreover, it helps discover the disease very early, thus helping it to be cured.

Municipal committee to check afforestation

By Naeesh Al Agha

THE Kuwait Municipality Committee on Public Utilities and Services decisions at its last meeting included the need to landscaping street medians in Andalus and maintain palm trees standing alongside motorways.

Discussion at the meeting centered on the comments presented by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources regarding the planting and maintaining of palm trees alongside motorways, and the landscaping of street medians in Andalus.

Copies of the proposed work-sites drawings were distributed among representatives from the relevant government authorities, such as the Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Oil besides the authority.

Comments were invited by the committee from the representatives of the concerned government authorities attending the meeting, stressing the need to protect existing services on work-sites and to ensure adequate water supply connections to the work-sites.

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Moonlighting fast becoming the norm

IN recent years there has been a growing number of expatriate workers holding more than one job. This trend has become a common practice in a number of commercial enterprises, primarily in the low-income professions. The escalating cost of living, lower salaries and the desire to save as much as possible in the shortest possible time bearing in mind the insecurity of employment tenure for overseas workforce in this country, have prompted expatriate from the low income bracket to make some extra money from working for a few hours in another field apart from holding the regular job.

Although by law an expatriate is not permitted to work for anyone but the sponsor who is usually also the employer, a growing band of workers mainly from the Indian sub-continent are engaged in a second employment in one form or another.

The bulk of these workers perform another job involving a couple of hours or more on average daily or weekly basis. Most of these extra tasks are performed in the evenings, bearing in mind that the regular legal jobs are done during the day.

Consequently, the extra work is done by these expatriates in the hotel and catering industry involving clandestine tasks in small restaurants, cafes and general stalls. Work involves serving, cleaning and even cooking.

Discretion

Since this kind of work entails only a short time, the workers usually get away from the law and discretion is maintained as labour inspectors don't normally investigate such cases unless they are officially reported. This practice is also mutually beneficial to both employer and worker. The employer gets the extra help by having to pay less and without the need to employ full-time staff for certain jobs, while the worker relishes the extra few dinars that greatly supplements his meagre regular income.

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Pamela...Madonna antics



Mary Ann Espadilla...entertainer



Miss Visayas, Maria Lourdes



Mr. Metro Manila, Richard Norman



Miss Luzon, Rudge Marie



Naser with Miss Metro Manila

Pamela and Naser steal the show

Little Mr and Miss Philippines — 1989

IN SPITE of the warm weather, more than 200 enthusiastic spectators drove to the Showbiz Pizza Place to watch the selection of Little Mr and Miss Philippines — Kuwait for 1989 organised by the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) on Friday.

Naser Al Nazer whose mother is a Filipina won the prestigious title of Little Mister Philippines — Kuwait for 1989. He impressed all the judges with his smart movement and elegant suit. He also ran away with almost all the special awards by winning the Mister Photogenic, Talent, and best suit.

Pamela Rose, whose antics showed during the over-all performance and imitated the Madonna style captured the Little Miss Philippines — Kuwait 1989. Her lovable dance won the heart of the judges.

Aside from the trophies and valuable prizes, both the winners won USD100.00 each courtesy of Jameel Rahman, General Manager of The City International Exchange Co and Masud Ul Amin, Assistant General Manager. All the participants were given 1.1 grains of gold donated by Don Jayantha Kannangara, director of Trico International Ltd.

First Runner-up (Little Miss Luzon) was taken by Rudge Marie Maghirang who performed well in the talent portion and received the Miss Talent award and Maria Lourdes Santos Inserto, a four-year-old and one of the favourites of the crowd, snapped up the Little Miss Visayas (second runner-up). Her declamation of "Vengeance is not ours" impressed the feeling of the judges.

Jamella Brenda Rafael won the third runner-up (Little Miss Mindanao) and Miss Friendship award. While Marjan Martin, a three-year-old did a tough act to capture the Little Miss Metro Manila (fourth runner-up). She won the prize for the best gown in the contest.

Rhaston Anthony Dagdag was the first runner-up (Little Mr Luzon) with his story telling talent which he showed to the delight of the judges. Philip Bhargava took the Mister Visayas (second runner-up) and was voted Mr. Friendship. Third runner-up (Mister Mindanao)

went to Ruel Austria while Richard Norman Mercado captured the fourth runner-up (Mister Metro Manila) with his dancing. Richard was the only contestant who wore the national dress.

Trophies
All the winners for the major awards were awarded trophies donated by Atty. Mohd Zaid Al Awadi and Marina Laygo while the trophies for the special awards were courtesy of Adnan Khalil, General Manager of Far East Restaurant.

All the champions and winners in their respective divisions were given gift certificates donated by Kabayan Restaurant, Mabuhay Restaurant, Pizza Italia, Oriental Trading & Refrigeration Co., Mr Bobby Madayag, Manager of Bobby's Gift Shop, Al Bader Stationery, Saleh Abughosh, Manager of Hatid Ligaya, Ogie Olor, Pinoy Restaurant, Alghanim Forwarders and Mandy Catapang of Modern Saloon.

Secretary Rosale Austria the chairperson of the said project made the welcome address to all participants and guests.

Atty Louise Cortel, Legal Officer and attache was the guest of honour. He thanked Kapilku for a wonderful project like the Little Mr & Miss Philippines — Kuwait, for the development of the children and for the community service.

Maryann Espadilla rendered a song number while Abel Campos and Mher Lumbang entertained the spectators with their beautiful songs. Evelyn Odicia was there to render her memorable song to all the guests.

Kapilku President Manny Inserto in his closing remarks thanked all Kapilku officers for their wonderful job and expressed his appreciation to all sponsors and participants without whom the project might never have been so successful.

Versatile Jun Mercado and energetic Evelyn Odicia were the master of ceremonies. VP Sarah Macarimbang and AVP Lulu Alelojo were the co-ordinators.

The board of judges were composed of Atty Cortel, Chairman, Thelma Samiel, Finance Attache — Philippine Embassy,

Grace Fe Covarubias, President of Flask, Rosario Luna, President of Samahan ng Philipinong Optometrist sa Kuwait, Salvador Patungan, Executive Director of FCC, Rory Aurellano, Managing Partner of Kabayan Restaurant, Basil Abughosh, Managing Director of Abughosh Inn and Bert Papas.

Special judges for the Little Mr & Miss Photogenic were composed of George de la Cruz, P.J. Oblena and Danny Pangan. Albert Arriola, of Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel was the auditor for the contest.

The chairman was Jojo Medrano and the vice chairman was Jun Mercado, who were the officials of the competition.

All participants in the just concluded Little Mr and Miss Philippines Kuwait will have a get-together on Friday, from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm at Kabayan Restaurant. Parlor games will be provided to the participants and trophies for appreciation will be given to all.

For details please contact chairperson Rosale.



Little Miss Philippines, Pamela Rose Rojo



Miss Visayas and company do a Lei dance



Sugar and spice...the ladies line up



Boys will be boys...lining up



Sponsors Don Kannangara (third left) and Jameel Rahman (second right) with the winners and KAPILKU office bearers

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omani envoy

KUWAIT, Aug. 26, (KUNA): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today received the envoy of Sultan Qaboos Bin Saied of Oman, Mohammed Bin Ali Bin Nasir Al Alwi, who presented the Amir a message from the Omani leader.

The audience was attended by Information Minister and Acting Justice Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad and charge d'affaires at the Omani embassy here.

Qatar ties

NICOSIA, Aug. 25, (Reuters): Qatar established full diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia yesterday, the official news agency said.

The conservative Gulf state set up full ties with the Soviet Union and China last year and senior officials from both nations visited Doha to discuss economic and political co-operation.

Policeman honoured

KUWAIT, Aug. 26, (KUNA): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah today honoured First Lt (Intelligence) Fawaz Fadil Al Anzi of Sulaybiyah police station in recognition of his distinguished services.

Present at the occasion were the ministry's acting under-secretary, Brig. Mohamed Ahmed Al Qabandi and Acting Director of the Capital Intelligence Department Major Dawood Al Qanaei.

Accident

AMMAN, Aug. 26, (KUNA): Eight Kuwaiti nationals have been injured in a road accident outside Amman last night, police said today.

Police added that the accident occurred on Alazraq-to-Alzarqa road when the driver lost control of the van that was heading for Kuwait.

Revolution

KUWAIT, Aug. 26, (KUNA): Secretary-General of Arab Cities Organisation Abdul Aziz Al Adasani leaves here Thursday for Tripoli to take part in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution.

While there, Adasani will get acquainted with cultural, economic and social achievements realized during the past 20 years. Adasani will be accompanied by the organisation's Director-General Talib Al Tahiri.

Plan to produce fertiliser from garbage in two years

THE head of the waste collection section at Kuwait Municipality Khalifa Al Tamyani has said that construction works pertaining to the garbage collecting project will commence after two years. He added that the Industrial Investment Company prepared an economic feasibility study and the centre will be run by the organic fertilisers company which will be owned by the Public Investment Authority.

The centre will have factories to transfer house garbage into organic fertilisers and will be developed using the latest technology for conversion of garbage into quality organic fertilisers.

The municipality has established an experimental factory to produce organic fertilisers from residential garbage in the mid 1960's. It was supposed to establish the garbage complex in case of success of the factory. The factory was closed in 1984 due to the inferior quality of the produced fertilisers and to the low economic benefits. In 1987 the Council of Ministers agreed to establish a company to recycle house garbage. The Public Investment Authority asked the Industrial Investment Company to prepare the relevant economic and technical studies. Municipality took part in some stages of the study that was completed last year, the official said.

Costs

Tamyani pointed out that the project will reduce costs of burying remains as at present. The lands used for burying garbage will also be made available for other purposes and projects. The project will treat about 87 per cent of house garbage while only 13 per cent will be buried according to the study. The centre will produce organic fertilisers suitable for use in agricultural projects, he said.

The centre will consist of two plants to produce organic fertilisers, one at Amghara Industrial Area to the North and the other in the South after the Ahmadi Area. The two plants will be located far from the housing areas. They will be at distances safe enough to avoid pollution. The two plants will be close to the garbage collection centres.

According to the technical studies of the project the total capacity of the two plants will total about 700 tons of garbage a day in the first stage which will produce 190 tons of organic fertilisers a day besides 80 tons of sorted materials a day such as paper, glass and metals. About 190 tons of garbage will be buried in appropriate places. He expected that treated quantity of garbage will increase to 3500 tons a day at the end of this century.

Tamyani pointed out that the municipality is presently getting rid of the remains of burying them in three places in Kuwait. He added that this way makes it difficult to benefit from the lands used for burying garbage. These lands can only be used as parks, gardens or squares. He added that the municipality co-ordinates with the Environment Protection Council in this field to preserve health conditions. He added that organic fertilisers that will be produced by the two plants will be sold at reasonable prices which will have economic benefits for the state, Tamyani added.

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PAAET has more females

New admission policy soon

THE dean of students and training affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Hisham Al Mutawa has said that some Kuwaiti students were not admitted at the authority's faculties or training centres because they failed to select the major that can be accepted on the basis of their percentage of the Secondary School Certificate. These students did not write more than one option in the applications submitted to the authority, the official said. He added that English evaluation exams at the faculties of the authority for fresh students will commence on September 10. Expatriate students who were not admitted in the authority in the first session will have an opportunity to submit their applications for the second session. The authority will offer transportation for girls living in remote areas, he said.

Mutawa pointed out that the authority's new five-year-plan will be announced shortly. The

new plan for 1990/1991-94/1995 will lay down general policies of admission. These policies will also be based on the admission of Kuwait University besides the actual needs of labour market as well as capacity of faculties and training centres of the authority. We co-ordinate with the university in the admission policy in order not to admit students in the authority and the university simultaneously. He added that faculties of the authority has more female students compared to males and attributed this to the large population of females in Kuwait compared to males. The boys also have other options like police academy, military academy, scholarships out of Kuwait and training courses of the authority.

Girls rush to faculties of the authority because of lesser chances. A total of 900 applications in the last session were rejected because all of them wanted to join the faculty of basic education. Most rejected applications

were for girls, he said and added that students should try and select other majors and faculties like health sciences and technological studies or commercial studies in order to enhance the possibility of admission.

Drop out
Mutawa pointed out that many students at different faculties do not continue and leave their faculties for other places.

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Committee for investigations

High temperatures causing fires

THE commander of Shuwaikh and Farwaniya Fire Brigade Lt Col. Hameed Bahman has referred the increasing number of fires during summer to high temperatures and violators of storage restrictions. He also added that children who enjoy a long holiday during summer have more time to play with electrical appliances, matches and fireworks that cause fires. He also attributed fires to bad electrical extensions and increase of electrical load during summer.

Bahman stressed that some of these

accidents are caused intentionally. Some owners of shops or companies set fire to their shops and companies before the annual stock-taking to get the insurance money. Some workers of stores also set fire to their stores to hide their crimes and disappearance of stocks from the stores. But he added that such arson is discovered and exposed. We set up a committee comprising specialists to investigate into fires, he said. He added that people who commit arson face severe legal actions beside losing their properties.

Bahman pointed out that the fire brigades

own the latest fire fighting equipments and vehicles which can reach a height of 20 floors.

The brigade at Shuwaikh and Farwaniya command suffers from shortage in drivers of fire vehicles. He called on the insurance companies not to insure any establishment or stores that are not licenced by the General Fire Authority. He added that his area suffers from the existence of many shops and stores that are not licenced by the authority. Most fires are reported in shops and stores that are not licenced by the authority, the official said.

No more commerce buildings down town

THE acting head of the Urban Design Section at Kuwait Municipality Abdul Wahab Al Abdul Razzaq has said that the projected volume of labour in Kuwait City would reach 187,000, contrary to the recommended total of 140,000 stated in the physical plans.

He told a local daily that the maximum projected population in Kuwait City would reach up to 56,000 compared with the figures stated in the related physical plan which put the minimum at 100,000.

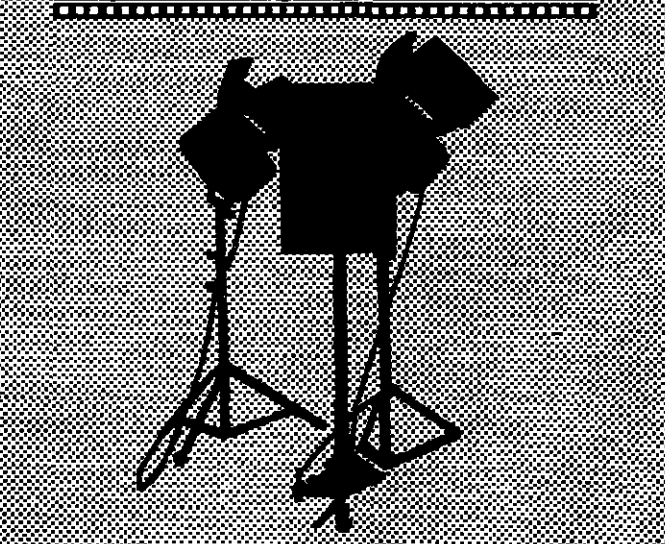
Personnel at the municipality have finalised a special study for continued updating and follow-up of the Kuwait City masterplan, which was duly endorsed. The recommendations adopted by the study emphasised the need not to increase the approved commercial building percentage in the city or attempt to amend the existing building code.

Razzaq said that the study was prepared through co-operation of different government agencies, besides the municipality and that other recommendations contained in it laid heavy emphasis on the need to accelerate the construction of housing projects sponsored by the government in different areas.

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Thought for today

THE emotions may be endless. The more we express them, the more we may have to express them — E.M. Forster, English novelist (1879-1970).

French drive on Lebanon a puzzle

Objects hazy

FRANCE'S risky attempt to end the fighting in Beirut has so far failed to cow Syria into submission or produce a convincing display of solidarity from the United States and its European allies.

The precise objectives of a French Navy fleet dispatched to Lebanon in haste remains hazy and the international campaign to revive Arab League mediation has made no perceptible progress.

But French officials pointed yesterday to two achievements since President Francois Mitterrand launched his "Save Lebanon" initiatives on August 12.

Artillery bombardments in Beirut have lessened and the Soviet Union has overcome its reluctance to take a direct part in the search for a ceasefire and a peaceful settlement.

French and foreign analysts were puzzled by the future role of the naval task-force, whose mission was described by Mitterrand last Wednesday as solely humanitarian.

Syria, Iran, Algeria and Muslim leaders in Lebanon have all described what they consider old-style gunboat diplomacy to give succour to Christian army commander Michel Aoun.

"We would rather prefer France to cancel this operation and fold this page," Selim Hoss, Muslim prime minister of one of the two rival Lebanese cabinets and considered a moderate by French officials, said yesterday.

On Wednesday Mitterrand replied to a naked threat from one of the shadowy groups holding Western hostages when he said no outsider could dictate French policy.

But 24 hours later the French fleet in the eastern Mediterranean was scaled down from eight vessels to five.

"Syria's friends were bound to take part as a signal that the French were giving in," one senior European Economic Community (EEC) diplomat commented.

Britain has been the coolest of France's allies in the 12-nation EC about the sending of the task-force, diplomats said. Although France has declared that it enjoys the unanimous backing of its partners, no formal statement to that effect has been made.

"If there were a joint statement it would not go as far as France would like because of the reluctance of the British. They have always been sceptical about French policy in the Lebanon," one European envoy commented.

According to French official sources the limit of the fleet's potential role would be to evacuate French nationals from Beirut if the fighting deteriorated.

But Pierre Darcourt, defence specialist for the daily Le Figaro, wrote on Friday that the task-force, led by the aircraft carrier Foch, was not strong enough to silence hostile fire during a full evacuation.

Such a mission would in any case involve breaking the Syria blockade of Christian ports, pitching France into a direct military confrontation with Damascus.

Despite the presence in the Mediterranean of the powerful US Sixth Fleet, Washington has at no time suggested it was backing the French naval force.

Expressions of support from senior US officials have struck French observers as mealy-mouthed and designed not to jeopardise the lives of American hostages in Lebanon.

The influential daily Le Monde, which is well-informed about Mitterrand's thinking, said on Friday the French initiatives had forced Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to back down.

But the retreat may be temporary, until the heat is off, some analysts in Paris fear.

"The trouble is that Syria is confident it has the upper hand in Lebanon in the long term," one Western diplomat said.

Le Monde, echoing the views of French officials, observed that France had managed to "internationalise" the vicious conflict thanks to its high-profile activity.

It pushed for and obtained a UN Security Council declaration calling for a ceasefire. After lobbying by Paris Pope John Paul openly blamed Syria for the crisis and the Soviet Union joined peace initiatives by sending senior envoy Genadi Tarasov to Lebanon and Syria.

(Reuters Paris)

PRESS REVIEW

A local daily cautioned that the French naval presence near Lebanese coasts could heat up the already explosive situation in that war-torn country, and pave the way for other Eastern and Western powers to send their fleets to the region.

Commenting editorially, *Al Rai Al Aam* newspaper said that the Mediterranean basin might become what the Arabian Gulf was during the Iraq-Iran war.

It affirmed that the West, led by the US is trying to turn the whole Arab region into an even hotter spot to divert the world's attention from the 21-month-old intifada in the occupied Arab territories.

"The daily charged Washington with making little effort to realise 'speedy and tangible' results in its dialogue with the PLO and escalating the situation in Lebanon to justify the Western military presence in that country."

"Amid that, the Arab side is in a state of dismay, abandoning the resolutions endorsed by the Casablanca summit on seeking a solution to the Lebanese crisis," *Al Rai Al Aam* underlined.

It stressed that Arabs must back efforts by the three-man committee toward a ceasefire in Lebanon, in order to stop any possible intervention by the big powers. (KUNA)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1640 — Flemish forces under Count Tilly defeat Denmark's King Christian IV at Lutter, East Germany, placing all North Germany at mercy of Catholic League.

1758 — Russian troops withdraw after indecisive battle with Prussians at Zorndorf, Poland.

1789 — French National Assembly adopts Declaration of the Rights of Man.

1826 — Uruguay is formally proclaimed independent at preliminary peace talks between Brazil and Argentina.

1891 — France and Russia sign an entente.

1928 — Kellogg-Briand pact is signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for peaceful settlement of disputes.

1939 — Nazi Germany demands Danzig and the Polish Corridor.

1943 — Japanese forces evacuate New Georgia Island in the Pacific in World War II.

1945 — US troops begin landing in Japan at end of World War II.

1966 — French President Charles de Gaulle arrives in Ethiopia from Somalia, where his visit was marred by bloody rioting.

1969 — Israeli commando force penetrates deep into Egyptian territory to stage mortar attack on regional Army headquarters in Nile Valley of Upper Egypt.

1971 — Attempted coup fails in African nation of Chad, and government accuses Egypt of playing role in the attempt and breaks diplomatic relations.

1972 — US jets bomb Haiphong, North Vietnam's major port.

1985 — Nigerian officers announce military coup d'etat, and say Army chief of staff is asked to form new government.

1986 — Twelve blacks are shot dead by police in Soweto, and a town councillor is hacked to death in worst riots in more than a year in a black township in South Africa.

1987 — Hundreds of strikers battle riot police in at least two South Korean cities.

1988 — Muslim guerrillas hold two Afghan provincial capitals and battle the regular communist Army for two others.

Storming the bastions of male power

LDP public relations coup

JAPAN'S ruling party on Friday named a woman to replace a top cabinet minister who resigned because of a sexual liaison, but most political analysts doubted the move would raise the party above its scandals and male dominance.

"It is too obvious what they tried to do, turn a political disaster into a public-relations coup," said Toshihiko Hara, associate professor of political science at Tokai University.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu named Mayumi Morioka as chief cabinet secretary, often described as Japan's second most powerful cabinet post, after Tokuo Yamashita resigned.

Yamashita stepped down following reports, which he largely confirmed, that he had tried to pay a large amount of money to end a three-year affair with a part-time bar hostess.

It was the second sex scandal in three months involving a top politician from the Liberal Democratic Party, which has also suffered because of leaders' remarks critical of women's political role and from a lack of women in high positions.

Defeat

The party suffered a humiliating defeat in upper house election in July when it lost its majority in the chamber for the first time since the party's foundation in 1955.

The Japan Socialist Party played the major role in the opposition victory. Party leader Takako Doi, a woman, pursued a conscious policy of running as many women candidates as possible and emphasising women's issues.

Morioka had earlier been named director of the environmental agency, one of two female members of Kaifu's cabinet. Kaifu's predecessor, Sosuke Uno, resigned following the election defeat.

Uno himself was caught in a scandal involving an extramarital affair, and was also unable to soothe public anger over other scandals and an unpopular sales tax.

The LDP hoped Kaifu could clean up its image and enable it to survive the election for the powerful lower house that must be held no later than July, 1990.

Many analysts believe that as an ex-bureaucrat rather than a politician she will be little more than a figurehead, and see the fact it took over a day for the LDP to accept Yamashita's resignation as a sign of weakness on the part of Kaifu and an eroding ability to make decisions.

"It is easy to give a good appearance... were they serious about women they would have chosen another woman to replace Morioka in the environmental agency," Hara said.

Morioka was replaced by a male deputy, Setsu Shiga.

Muneyuki Shindo, politics professor at Rikkyo University, asked, "What can you expect from Kaifu when he failed to take strong leadership for a problem like this? What can he do for serious problems such as the sales tax and trade?"

"It was not a question of a sex scandal that mattered. It is their capability to manage what is put into question," he said.

Soichiro Tahara, a well-known political commentator said that the quick exit of Yamashita, just two weeks after Kaifu came to power, showed that Kaifu's cabinet "has had to use bench-warmers who are actually not able to play the game."

"Japanese people no longer accept what used to be allowed for Japanese politicians — money and women. Maybe the question of politics is changing into that of quality," said Hideo Uchiyama, politics professor at Keio University.

"It has become clear the old constitution of the LDP is failing to confront new trends in the society," he added.

Not all analysts were negative about the likely political impact of the Morioka appointment.

"It's a very good political choice, a very astute choice," said Robert Orr, associate professor of politics at Temple University Japan.

"It will be interesting to see to what extent she will have influence. She is a very savvy political operator," he said.

Mayumi Morioka, 61, a thin grey-haired woman, has spent her life storming the bastions of male power.

Respected for her fierce intelligence and cool delivery, she has never been intimidated by men, who have traditionally scorned women in corridors of power in this country.

One of the first women admitted to the prestigious



Mayumi Morioka: out to give new image to politics

Tokyo University after World War Two she has now become the most powerful woman in the 34-year history of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Morioka earned her nickname "Iron Woman" for an angry protest letter she sent in 1985 to the committee of the Koganei Country Club that had refused to allow her, as a woman, attend a Foreign Ministry golf tournament.

At that time, she had been named Japanese delegate to a United Nations women's conference on sexual equality and was a vice-minister.

As a student aged 21 she married her husband, Kinji, then a newly elected LDP Member of Parliament. Kinji died two years ago after a successful political career that included a spell as transport minister.

Their only son died in an accident in 1973. Morioka has two daughters.

"I was surrounded by 600 male students in my Tokyo University days, so I had a lot of opportunities to learn about men. As a result, I have come to

understand that in this world, no men are particularly wise, nor are there any who are especially inferior," she was once quoted as saying.

She worked at the Labour Ministry from 1960 to 1980 when she was elected to parliament's lower house. Her last office at the ministry dealt with women's and juveniles' issues.

"She is a very smart person, which has already been proven by her 20-year service at the Labour Ministry," said one LDP politician.

The LDP is looking to Morioka to restore fortunes shattered by sex scandals that have alienated many Japanese women voters.

She is seen as the party's best answer to the popular female leader of the Japan Socialist Party, Takako Doi.

"It may be only Morioka who could counter the popularity of Doi," an LDP source said.

Kaifu told reporters: "I picked her not just because she is a woman, but because she has experience in both administration and parliament." (Reuters Tokyo)

No alternative

Disunity hurts Afghan rebels

FEW things have helped Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah more than the chronic disunity of his enemies.

The best efforts of anti-communist rebels to form an alternative government to unite their disparate, undisciplined movement against him have yielded little.

Six months after it was formed in neighbouring Pakistan, the rebels' Afghan Islamic Government (AIG) is widely seen as divided, inefficient and unconvincing.

"It's a shambles basically — the verdict of a Western diplomat — is among the kindest comments to be heard from rebel and diplomatic analysts in Peshawar, where the interim government is based."

The fiasco has helped bring the 11-year-old civil war to a virtual halt in most of Afghanistan, while the Kabul government grows stronger every day, they say.

Pakistan is coming under increasing diplomatic pressure, than has moved closer to Moscow, and even key rebel supporter the United States has doubts about its Afghan policy.

Yet the rebel leadership give no sign of being any closer to considering a deal with Najibullah. And despite its failure so far, the consensus of opinion seems to be to stick with the interim government for the time being.

Alternative

"The interim government has not done all it was supposed to, but there is no alternative, I wish there was an alternative," Kabul area commander Abdul Haq said.

"The AIG is slowly, slowly doing something," Omar Sherard, a political committee member of the Jamiat-ul-Islami party, said. "Even if their work has a lot of mistakes, a lot of imperfections, it is better than nothing."

Senator Charles Felt, chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, took a similar line after talks with rebel leaders and independent analysts.

"It is all we have," he commented. "In a storm any part is a good part, but parts can be improved."

Critics cite a host of shortcomings.

The interim government was formed after a congress of many leading rebels last February. But this was held in Rawalpindi, something Najibullah has made use of to brand it a Pakistani puppet.

It has failed to meet its promise to move inside Afghanistan. An attempt to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad as a base failed amid heavy casualties.

Many of its ministries exist only in name, while some rebel leaders use their positions just to favour their own parties.

"Each minister treats his ministry as booty," one analyst, who asked not to be identified, said. "They hold cabinet meetings all the time to discuss staff, salaries, who gets what now. The fundamental problem of the country they never discuss."

But the main failing is that the interim government has not overcome the often deep divisions among the seven parties or brought in other significant groups.

Iran-based guerrillas of the Shiite minority have stayed outside as have most prominent intellectuals living in exile. Mujahideen operating in southern Afghanistan, many of them royalists, will have little to do with it.

There is little military co-ordination. An attempt to bring all seven parties into a joint attack on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway last week ended in disaster and mutual recriminations, according to witnesses.

Party leaders attack each other bitterly in public and issue contradictory statements.

The biggest blow came in July when a feud between guerrillas affiliated with Jamiat and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami in Takhar province erupted in bloodshed.

The interim government appointed a commission to investigate. But tensions remain high and Peshawar is awash with rumours of new clashes.

Changed

Inside Afghanistan the position is little changed since the last Soviet troops left in February. Najibullah's men hold the main cities, the guerrillas hold most of the countryside, including five of the 31 provinces.

The rebels capture the occasional post and fire rockets from a distance into Kabul and Jalalabad.

"The commanders are hanging back, they want to see some political progress," the analyst said. "Since the Russians left they think it is very easy to fight the regime, but they need some political motivation."

"Time is against us. We still need to defeat the regime militarily but that defeat needs a political change."

Abdul Haq said the commanders would probably give the interim government until mid- or late winter to make itself effective. Otherwise, "we will have to think of another way," he said.

Najibullah's peace proposals cut no ice in Peshawar, and he has yet to lure any major commander of his side. But the rebel leaders concede that his strategy is effective.

"What he is proposing is regional autonomy for the commanders. That is clever, he is getting more attention," Sherard said.

But no rebel leader seems interested in a negotiated settlement unless the top Kabul leadership goes first.

"If in other parts of the world the people have short memories, we do not," Sherard said. "We don't forget that he was in charge of Khad (the secret police)."

"He can change his clothes, but he can't change his personality," he said. "To quote one of our prophets: You can wear any clothes you want, but I know you from the way you walk." (Reuters Peshawar)

Panama connection spotlighted

COLOMBIA'S crackdown on drug traffickers has spotlighted the key role of Panama in the multi-billion dollar international trade in cocaine.

"The Panama connection has been as important for cocaine in the 1980s as the French connection was for heroin in the 1960s," said an anti-narcotics official. "With the difference that Panama handles more drugs and more money than Marseille ever did."

Cocaine's Panama connection has drawn attention once again with the arrest of alleged money-launderer Eduardo Martinez as part of a huge Colombian crackdown on cocaine traffickers.

The detention of more than 10,000 people in Colombia in the past five days was ordered in response to the assassination of a leading politician, a Supreme Court judge and the police chief in the city of Medellin.

A court in Atlanta last March indicted Martinez on charges he helped funnel millions of drug dollars into the international banking system to hide the criminal origins of the cash and route the money back to bosses in the so-called Medellin cartel.

Scheme

Martinez' money-laundering scheme, his indictment says, involved the Panamanian branch of Colombia's Banco de Occidente, where two officials credited at least \$10 million in cash to accounts accessible by routine electronic transfers.

Panama's de-facto military ruler, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, is himself under indictment

from courts in Florida for having turned his country into a conduit for tons of US-destined cocaine in return for huge bribes.

Despite the presence of 12,000 US troops in Panama and manoeuvres by hundreds of them this month, the US Defence Department says it does not want a fight with Noriega.

Private experts also doubt the United States is ready to shoot it out with Panama's strongman after its diplomatic efforts failed to oust him.

"We are going to have to take the long approach here," Rob Kurz of the Washington-based Brookings Institution, told Reuters. "Remember the Shah in Iran, (Anastasio) Somoza in Nicaragua and (Ferdinand) Marcos in the Philippines? We had egg on our faces there but we didn't run them out with a gun."

Latin Americans familiar with the cocaine trade scoff at suggestions that Martinez functioned as the "finance minister" of the Medellin cartel and say he was a middle-ranking official who carried out orders rather than planned policy.

The undercover operation that resulted in Martinez' indictment found a much larger money-laundering scheme that allegedly piped \$1.2 billion of cocaine cash through jewellery shops, gold bullion dealers and an array of banks.

Connection

While most of these were not part of the Panama connection, experts say, the Martinez investigation pointed to the role of Panama-based banks — and

complicity of Panamanian authorities — in handling the financial side of the cocaine business.

With bank secrecy laws tighter than those of Switzerland, Panama's more than 110 foreign banks are havens for money of dubious origin from all over the world.

Through a Panamanian law passed in 1987, under pressure from the United States, provided for up to eight years in jail for bankers involved in money-laundering, cash is still virtually impossible to trace once it is credited to a Panamanian account.

Narcotics experts say the Martinez case shows that Panama continues to offer unrivalled facilities to those with enough money and the right connections.

Martinez was in Panama on March 29, the day he was indicted, and US Attorney-General Richard Thornburgh announced the United States had cracked a huge money-laundering ring.

Thornburgh said one of the chief suspects — Martinez — had been arrested in Panama. The statement was premature.

Martinez appears to have been opening yet another dirty money account with a foreign bank when he was tipped off about the impending announcement from Washington — and about a Panamanian team poised to arrest him.

By the time undercover agents of the Panama Defence Force, which is commanded by Noriega, arrived at the bank, Martinez had disappeared. (Washington — Reuters)

Quote me

hoped. — Bayero Munich's coach Jupp Heynckes said after they suffered their first defeat of the season.

"After all that I have done, I think I do. It has been quite an evolution since 1980 with the games opening in the United States to women's races. Now there is a woman's Tour de France." — France's Jeanne Longo said after she won the fourth straight title in the women's road race.

"What we're looking for is solar wind effects, as the solar wind gets farther and farther out. We look at other star systems that probably have magnetic fields, probably have stellar winds, and we're trying to understand — what are

we seeing? How do they change with time?" — Stanley Shawhan, director of NASA's space physics division said.

"Some of the older wrestling officials still give us weird looks, but basically everybody has been great." — said Asia Dweese, an American wrestler.

"The South African government is prepared to talk to anyone who renounces violence — for only such people can help build a future free of conflict — not those who hold a gun to our heads and who wish to violently force their will upon us." — Adriaan Vlok, minister of law and order said about South African violence.

"We march to send a message to all people regardless of race, colour, religion, sex or ethnic origin, that we will not and cannot acquiesce quietly as an uncaring Supreme Court majority and dissimiles court ruling after court ruling and turn its face toward the dark past and away from the present and future." — Civil rights demonstrators, who marched quietly upon the US Supreme Court and the Capitol to protest recent court actions, message said.

"The bloody rift in Lebanon has to be healed because Lebanon is an Arab country and whatever happens there directly affects the Arab world." — Jordanian news agency Petra quoted King Hussein as telling the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara.

هكذا من العمل

VARIETY

'Seven underwater wonders of world' named

A LIST of the "seven" underwater wonders of the world was announced by a panel of marine experts yesterday with the aim of focusing public attention on protecting the world's underwater environment.

"If a concerted effort is not undertaken soon to protect and preserve our underwater wonders, they — like the classic Seven Wonders of the world — could be lost forever through carelessness, negligence or deliberate mistreatment," said Rick Sammon, president of the sponsoring organization, Cedam International.

The seven underwater wonders, selected yesterday by the 14-member panel of marine scientists, conservationists and explorers, are:

- Belau, an island group in Micronesia; the northern Red Sea; the Great Barrier Reef of Australia; the waters of the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador; Lake Baikal in Siberia; the Belize Barrier Reef and the deep ocean vents in the middle of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

An honourable mention went to whales as one of the great living wonders of the seas.

Cedam International is a non-profit group of 1,000 mostly marine scientists and conservationists that is based at Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

Sammon said selection of the seven underwater wonders signals the start of a Cedam-sponsored educational campaign to "generate an increased global awareness of the world's beautiful but very fragile marine environment."

The campaign will include collecting data and publishing information packets about the seven sites, a documentary series on the seven wonders, a touring exhibit of underwater photographs, school curricula on marine conservation and an art-quality photo book.

One of the panelists of marine experts that designated the seven underwater wonders was Scott Carpenter, a former astronaut and deep-sea diving aquanaut for the navy's Sealab project.

No to vertigo

Sky-writer crosses Seine

VERTIGO was the last thing on Philippe Petit's mind when he stepped onto a tight-rope stretching from the Palais de Chaillot to the Eiffel Tower yesterday.

"Vertigo only hits people who have time to think. Once I'm on the wire, I'm too busy to feel fear," explained the artist before his 700-metre (yard) walk 100 metres above the River Seine.

The walk was being hosted by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac to commemorate the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted 200 years ago by the French Parliament.

Along with a rival ceremony to be held by the culture ministry at the new Arc de la Defense, it marked the last of a series of grandiose Bicentenary events.

But while paying homage to the 1789 Revolution, Petit was clearly more interested in the walk as an expression of his rarefied art.

"I've waited 15 years for this spectacle, which will wake up Paris and make locals look to the sky for one brief moment of their lives," Petit said in an interview.

The steel cable was produced by a French manufacturer, which closed for two weeks to prepare its factory premises in order to produce the completely stress-less wire demanded by Petit.

The cable glimmered in the sun, looping from the Palais de Chaillot's esplanade, dedicated to the Declaration of Human Rights, up to the second storey of Gustave Eiffel's Iron Lady.

The final 16-degree gradient meant Petit effectively climbed uphill as he soldiered cross with a copy of the historic declaration. He handed the document to Chirac, waiting on the other side.

He fought to keep his balance as he walked up to 200 metres (656 feet) above the city.

"How badly the winds affect you depends on whether or not they zig-zag, come at you straight or sideways, and how tired you are when they hit," says Petit, who carries a small device to measure the force of the gusts.

But Petit would have waited until the day of the performance to discover how dangerous the walk really was. Although he had been training on a wire stretched across a landing strip at a Paris airport, a dress rehearsal was out of the question.

"You can't rehearse a miracle. You do it once and then you go out and have a slap-up meal," he explained.

Saturday's officially-sanctioned walk was an unusual experience for Petit, who until then had specialised in clandestine performances carried out against the wishes of local authorities.

These walks include a 1971 promenade between the belltowers of Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral, a walk above Australia's Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1973 and between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York a year later.

"People will always say no, because it's easier than saying yes. I've been arrested more than 500 times, as a street juggler and clandestine tight-rope walker. But never for murder."

Getting permission for the Paris event required a lot of persuasion and, in spite of a large donation by Chirac, funding remained a problem. After six mon-

ths of bureaucratic muddling, Petit viewed the walk itself as something of a rest cure.

"I'm impatient to begin, to do something I've dreamt of doing my whole life," said Petit, who was born in a Paris suburb and now lives in New York.

Rushing between the hairdresser and a technical check of the rigging, Petit took a moment to step back from the last-minute frenzy and reflect on what he was about to try. The spectacle would be the highlight of French celebrations commemorating the Bicentennial of the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

"People hear the word 'funambulist' and they think of the circus, but that's not at all what I do," he said, gazing across the Seine river to the wire.

"I want people to be enlightened by a vision, I want to uplift their minds and hearts. You don't do something like this every day. It is a masterpiece, a miracle."

Petit, who has a passion for poetic gestures, called the performance the most important in his life.

He grinned and confessed: "I always say that about all of them."

Then the smile faded. "But you know, each time I put my life on the wire, so each of them is the ultimate, the biggest, the one that is the most important of my life."

He did all his own rigging, and studied blueprints, photos and charts to prepare.

"We worked day and night. I haven't slept in five weeks."

Petit personally re-verified the entire system, each anchor, each guideline.

Petit, a boyish 40-year-old who refuses to describe himself as a tight-rope walker, preferring the labels "sky writer" or "stage setter," developed his obsession with heights early.

At six he was an eager tree-climber, at 16 he taught himself to walk the wire by tying thick coils of rope between two trees and donning a pair of ski boots. Soon he progressed to a single wire and thin slippers.

Now he sees the world around him in terms of spaces he can sling wires across.

"My first reaction when I see a high building is it's impossible and my second reaction is I must do it."

"I do it because I have to. Just as a painter has no choice about whether he paints, I can't choose not to walk the wire."

The Seine safely crossed, what new heights will be left?

"I'll keep on going round the world, putting tight-ropes up, with or without official permission. And if at 80 my friends don't tell me I look a pitiful sight, I'll still be up there."

Petit says the document, a distillation of the ideals of liberty and social justice that emerged in 1789 from the French Revolution, doesn't really interest him. But he saw the bicentennial of the revolution as the chance to present his own revolutionary vision.

"I don't believe much that is on paper. I don't believe in dropping coins in a box, I believe in sharing your sandwich," he said. "I believe in creating your own life, zig-zagging through the system but not being part of it. This is a call to revolt."

But Petit says his vision has more to do with art than politics.

(Agencies)



Andrew Lloyd Webber: a perfectionist

Two worlds in one

Pop opera's showman

By Peter Roberts Editor, "Plays International," London

TIN Pan Alley was the dismissive term used in the years immediately after World War II to describe the realm of popular music. But Andrew Lloyd Webber, who was born in March 1948 and was therefore in his receptive early teens when the Beatles emerged at the start of the 1960s, did not share this prejudice.

Although he came from a classical music background and loved opera (his father, William Lloyd Webber, was director of the London College of Music and his mother taught the piano), Andrew thought of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, the mainstay of the Beatles, as the greatest songwriters of the age, and assimilated rock-'n'-roll influences as enthusiastically as he did those of the giants of classical music. His ability to bestir these two worlds was quite literally to make his fortune.

In the first years of Andrew Lloyd Webber's life the British musical had an acute inferiority complex vis-a-vis the supremely successful American product. Try as they might, somehow the British could not produce anything to equal shows like "Oklahoma," "Annie Get Your Gun" and "South Pacific."

Then, at last, it looked as though they were going to find their own voice in an unlikely place, Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop in the East End of London. There, Lionel Bart was discovered, and Joan Littlewood's production of Cockney musicals, Bart's "Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be" (1959) followed by the successful "Lock Up Your Daughters" (1959), for which Bart wrote the lyrics, and "Oliver!" (1960), for which he wrote both music and lyrics, seemed to confirm that the London stage had found the road to its own authentic musicals.

As the 1960s drew to a close, Bart's great success proved short-lived, but the supremacy of the Broadway musical was successfully challenged in the 1970s by a composer and lyricist from a background vastly different from Bart's East End. Andrew Lloyd Webber and his lyricist partner Tim Rice, who were responsible for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" (1968), "Jesus Christ Superstar" (1970) and "Evita" (1978), were middle class English public school boys, Webber being educated at Westminster and Rice at Lancing.

Love of The Theatre

Although Andrew Lloyd Webber now has a country house in southern England, another in the south of France, and an apartment in Manhattan, New York, he was originally just as much a Londoner as

Bart. Born in Westminster Hospital, he grew up in his parents' flat in well-to-do South Kensington, went to a small, expensive preparatory school nearby and then to Westminster College — so home was definitely central London.

All this meant that the boisterous little boy (nicknamed Bumper) was able to indulge his early love of the theatre not only by building a model of one at home but by frequently visiting the real thing in the nearby West End.

Andrew's mother, Jean, a powerful personality, taught him the piano and he also learned to play the French horn. Mrs Lloyd Webber was a committed socialist and anxious to help the disadvantaged, especially if they had musical gifts.

The importance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's roots in the recording industry cannot be overemphasised because it meant he came to the musical not by way of the traditional book with its spoken dialogue leading to song, but by way of recorded song. This has meant that his musicals consist of a continuous flow of music, with the characters singing all the way, more in the manner of opera, rather than bursting into song after long scenes of spoken dialogue. On the one occasion that Lloyd Webber tried his hand at writing a musical from an original book — Alan Ayckbourn's "Jeeves", based on P.G. Wodehouse's character of that name and premiered in 1975 — it was a flop.

Tim Rice wisely backed out of that project and, despite the success of their earlier ventures, his partnership with Andrew Lloyd Webber was not renewed after "Evita." Friction seems to have developed over their differing personalities. Tim Rice was much liked, having a humorous and relaxed attitude to his work, while Andrew Lloyd Webber was and is a workaholic, a perfectionist with a short fuse, who is concerned not only with the words and music of a show but with every aspect of the production, including the design and technical matters of the lighting and sound.

Some thought that after the break with Tim Rice, Andrew Lloyd Webber's career might be finished. But with "Cats" (1981), for which poems in T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" provided the basis for the lyrics, with "Song and Dance" (1982), "Starlight Express" (1984), "Phantom of the Opera" (1986) (lyrics for all three written by Richard Stilgoe), and with "Tell Me On A Sunday" (1980) and this year's "Aspects of Love" (lyrics for both by Don Black) Lloyd Web-

ber has gone from success to success.

His musicals are performed all over the world, and in the United States their commercial triumph has eclipsed the homegrown American product. Through his Really Useful Company he has even been able to buy the Palace Theatre in London's Cambridge Circus and restore it to its former glory.

Although, being a perfectionist, he cannot be easy to work for, he has retained the loyalty of the former artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Trevor Nunn (the director of the stage productions of "Cats," "Starlight Express" and "Aspects of Love") and the impresario Cameron Mackintosh.

Meanwhile, to say that Andrew Lloyd Webber is a busy man is an understatement indeed. He has two children, Imogen and Nicholas, by his first wife Sarah Huggill (their marriage was dissolved in 1983) and now has a fruitful married partnership with the singer and dancer, Sarah Brightman, who took a leading role in "Phantom of the Opera."

The annual festivals over which the couple preside at their English country home offer the specially invited audience (which is sworn to secrecy) a glimpse of the composer's future projects.

Despite all the awards heaped on his musicals, Lloyd Webber must be dismayed at their failure to attract serious critical praise. However, he is still only 41, and when you recall that one of his musical heroes, Verdi, wrote his last and many think greatest opera, "Falstaff," when he was 80, you realise that Andrew Lloyd Webber still has plenty of time to win the critical palms to go with the fabulous wealth and commercial success that are already his.

Andrew and his younger brother, Julian (the cellist, born in 1951) were therefore taken to Leyton, in east London, where their mother had a prole, the future concert pianist, John Lill. On these occasions three boys went to watch and became committed followers of the Leyton Orient football club.

However, because Andrew had a childhood passion for ancient buildings and was good at history, Mrs Lloyd Webber decided that Julian was going to be a musician and Andrew a scholar. She must have been thrilled when Andrew went up to Oxford University to read history at Magdalen College, when still only 17, and dismayed when he gave it up after only a single term. His one-year course in orches-

tration at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and subsequent study at the Royal College of Music in 1966 were nearly as brief — and failed equally to produce a sense of commitment in him.

The reason Andrew Lloyd Webber quit Oxford so abruptly was that he had met the lyricist, Tim Rice, who was four years his senior and already working in the music industry for the British company, EMI. They must have made an odd-looking couple, for though Rice is approaching 2m in height Lloyd Webber is not much over 1.5m. However, they needed one another at that stage of their careers and the partnership flourished after a slow start.

Enthusiastic Notice

Together they wrote a musical about the work of the philanthropist Dr Barnardo ("The Likes of Us") which has never been performed. They had much better luck with their next project which began as a cantata commissioned by Alan Doggett who had taught music at the preparatory school where Andrew and Julian Lloyd Webber had started their education.

By 1966, Mr Doggett had moved on to Colet Court choir school and commissioned the piece for an end of term concert. The result of the commission, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat," in its original ten-minute form, first saw the light of day, therefore, in March 1968 before an audience of fairly bored parents.

But the composer and lyricist were more fortunate when an extended version was performed that May in Westminster Central Hall, because one of the parents on that occasion was the popular music critic of "The Sunday Times." He gave it an enthusiastic notice, which let to the piece being given in London's St Paul's Cathedral in November and then being released as a record album the following year.

Because the two were unable to find backers to stage their next controversial project, the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar," it first burst upon the world in 1970 in record form. In other words, the normal procedure of putting on a musical and keeping the score a carefully guarded secret until the first night was reversed and the public's appetite was whetted for the stage show by hearing the music first as a bestselling record.

Rice and Lloyd Webber repeated this ploy with their next venture, "Evita." The British singer and actress Julie Covington's record of the song "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina," became a bestseller in 1977, the year before "Evita" opened at London's Prince Edward Theatre, and two years before its Broadway debut.

'Nevsky' gets rave reviews

Russian film 'glows'

A NEWLY restored version of Sergei Eisenstein's 1938 film classic, "Alexander Nevsky," is captivating audiences on a world tour that its producer hopes will carry it triumphantly back to the Soviet Union.

Besides Eisenstein's dramatic black-and-white photography, the screen epic about the 13th century defeat of marauding Teutonic armies by Russian forces led by Prince Nevsky features a rousing musical score by composer Sergei Prokofiev.

"I'd love to take this film home to Russia," said producer John Gubernman, who said he is awaiting an overture from Moscow. "The first performance would knock them out. They'd be beside themselves."

At Gubernman's "Concert presentation" last night at the outdoor theatre of Wolf Trap Farm Park in suburban Virginia, the audience was to see a fresh print of Eisenstein's 107-minute movie, made from the original nitrate negative in the Moscow Film Archive.

While it was to be shown on a 30-foot (9-metre) screen over the stage, with English subtitles displayed on a smaller screen underneath, Prokofiev's music was to be performed in sync with the film by the National Symphony Orchestra, mezzo-soprano Janice Taylor and a chorus from the Oratorio Society of Washington.

The film has two tracks for remastered dialogue and sound effects, a computer slide track for subtitles and a fourth track that feeds cues to the orchestra conductor.

The print is so gorgeous, it just glows," Gubernman said. "It will make you fall in love with black-and-white film all over again."

The music was another matter. Gubernman described the faint, scratchy soundtrack of the original film, performed by a 30-member studio band, in one word: "Horrible."

The orchestra was clearly having a bad day

with one of the greatest film scores ever written," he said during a break in rehearsals at the Kennedy Centre.

Shortly after Prokofiev completed the 60-minute movie score, he condensed it into his widely performed, 40-minute "Alexander Nevsky Cantata" for mezzo-soprano, chorus and orchestra.

Copies of the original movie score are lost. So Gubernman recruited musical arranger William D. Brohn to transcribe the missing 20 minutes of music from the original soundtrack for full orchestra, using the Cantata as a framework.

"We knocked ourselves out to make this music authentic," Gubernman said. "We even left in Prokofiev's obvious mistakes. We took the film and added the music we think is what Prokofiev heard in his head. It is fair to say that almost every note is by Prokofiev."

Gubernman said performances of "Alexander Nevsky" are booked through next year at the Pompeii Festival in Italy, Toronto, San Diego and San Antonio, Texas.

The restored version premiered in Los Angeles in November 1987, and came to Washington after enthusiastic receptions in Cleveland, Philadelphia, London and Hollywood.

Eisenstein is reported to have made the film about Nevsky, a legendary Russian hero, because he had fallen into disfavour and needed a popular hit that would please Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and his cultural bureaucrats.

For his part, Stalin embraced "Nevsky" as a valuable piece of artistic propaganda to mobilize the Soviet people against a threatened invasion by Nazi Germany.

The movie was shelved after the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact was signed in 1939, but was shown after the Germans invaded two years later.

Brides drowned in the bath

Killer of lonely hearts

By Lisa Stacey

COOLLY, he lifted his new bride's legs out of the bath and pushed her head under the water. Her hands grappled to find the sides of the bath. But her struggle was hopeless... it was all over in minutes.

Margaret Lofty's body lay limp in the warm water. She had been murdered the day after her wedding, by the man she had just pledged herself to, George Smith.

But the charming romo, who had promised the vicar's daughter a life of wedded bliss, was not quite the charming antique dealer Margaret had fallen in love with.

For lethal womaniser George was a multiple bigamist, who made his living through charming women into stealing for him, marrying them, then murdering them.

His first victim was Bessie Mundy, a simple caring soul who fell for George's dominating charms. After their marriage, he persuaded the lonely lady to make out a will and insure herself against the "unlikely" occurrence of her death.

Just hours after the signing of the will, George took Bessie to see an inexperienced young doctor. He confirmed that her headaches could be epilepsy. The next step was simple. George drowned his doting bride in the bath and then collected his evil profits.

The method was so simple and effective that George decided to pursue his callous career. His next victims were Alice Burnham and Margaret Lofty. But with Margaret's murder he made a fatal mistake. George was too impatient.

Just one day after the wedding, George drowned Margaret in the bath. The case attracted national press coverage, which lead police into a gruesome investigation of bigamy, theft, heartbreak and murder.

George's cunning career began after his first marriage to a 18-year-old bootmaker's daughter, Caroline Thornhill. He found it easy to persuade the young girl to steal for him, but it was not long before she was arrested and imprisoned.

Lonely

Free to look for lonely ladies, George discovered a far easier way of making money out of his dupes. In 1899 he bigamously married a wealthy boarding-house keeper and milked her for every penny she had.

When the money was gone so was George, and he took off on a tour of the South of England, wooing, wedding and walking out on lonely women. Police never discovered just how many he duped.

During this time he also met and married a plump housekeeper in her late twenties, Edith Mabel. But for once this alliance was a love match and George never stole a penny from the woman.

Yet that didn't stop him from pursuing his lonely hearts career, which took a sinister twist when he married spinster Beatrice Mundy. The ardent wooer could hardly believe his luck when he discovered that Bessie had £2,500 worth of securities, left to her in her father's will.

But the legacy was managed by a trust of relatives and paid Bessie just £8.00 a month. George quickly collected all the cash he could and in desperation abandoned his new bride. Bessie settled down to her lonely life again, but fate was to deal her a devastating blow.

Just 18 months after George had shattered Bessie's life, the couple bumped into each other at a seaside resort. Within hours the besotted girl was back in the arms of her cruel husband, making plans for the future.

The couple set up home in Kent, and George sought expert advice on how he could get his hands on his wife's £2,500. After discovering that the only way to get to the money was through a will, George wasted no time in getting Bessie to sign over her nest egg to him.



Lethal Romeo: George J. Smith with four of his wives, all lonely, unsuspecting women.

Notorious bigamist George J. Smith used his charms to prey on lonely, unsuspecting women. He would court them, marry them, take their money... then drown his new brides in their bath.

The prospect of £2,500 was enough to turn George into a killer. The next day he bought a tapless zinc bath and took Bessie to a young, inexperienced doctor claiming that his wife was suffering from fits.

The morning after, that same young doctor got a note from George saying: "Can you come? I'm afraid my wife is dead." He arrived at the house to find Bessie fully submerged in the bath. She was naked and lying on her back, a bar of soap clasped tightly in her hand.

George claimed that his wife had decided to take a bath, while he went out to get supper. When he returned, Bessie had drowned.

The police were called, but they saw no reason to suspect foul play. Later the coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure. No one thought to ask how Bessie had managed to drown in a bath far shorter than herself, or why George had left her body fully submerged in that bath water and not tried to save his wife.

After an economy-version funeral, George collected his ill-gotten gains and set out to look for another lonely spinster. Alice Burnham

would be his next victim.

Alice was a short, plump, private nurse with a rich father. She soon fell for the evil charms of George Smith. After a whirlwind romance, the lethal romo married her, against her father's wishes, and took her off on holiday. George also took the "kind" step of having his new wife's life insured.

The couple travelled to Blackpool for their winter break and called at a boarding house in Adelaide Street. But George rejected the rooms, as there was no bath. They finally found suitable accommodation with Mrs Crossley and settled down for a relaxing break.

Then George began to put his death plan into action. First he consulted a local doctor about his wife's headaches. That evening he asked Mrs Crossley to prepare a bath for Alice. At 8.15 pm the Crossleys were having a meal downstairs, when they noticed water staining the ceiling.

Supper

They were about to investigate, when George appeared at their door carrying two eggs, which he had just bought for supper. Then he went upstairs and shouted down: "Fetch the doctor, my wife cannot speak to me."

Alice had been killed the same way as Bessie. At the inquest, George was asked why he had not lifted his wife's body from the bath after the accident, or pulled the plug out. But a verdict of misadventure was again recorded and George collected his loot.

This time George returned to his favourite wife, Edith. But it was not long before he was off to London, where he met and courted a maid named Alice Reavil. Within the month he was back with Edith, with Alice's £80 saving and all her clothes.

The callous truth was, Alice was too poor to be worth killing.

But Margaret Lofty was rich and ripe for exploitation. After meeting her in Bath, George asked her to marry him. The couple wed in secret two days later and George again insured his new wife's life. Everything was going smoothly.

They moved to London, taking rooms in Highgate. Naturally they had a bath. But George had become over-confident after the success of his previous killing. This time he was too impatient.

On the evening of their arrival, he took Margaret to see a local doctor. Next morning, he took her to a solicitor, in order to make her will.

By the next evening, Margaret was having a bath. Downstairs the landlady heard splashing about and a noise: "Of someone putting wet hands or arms on the side of the bath."

Ten minutes later the landlady answered the door to George, who claimed he had been out to buy his wife's supper. But Margaret lay upstairs in the bath, drowned. The lonely dupe was buried a couple of days later.

Flushed with his success, George returned to Edith, in Bristol. He was totally unaware of the terrible blunder he had made.

Some months later the coroner considered Alice's death an accident. But this time George had been too impatient and the story of the bride dying in her bath made front page news.

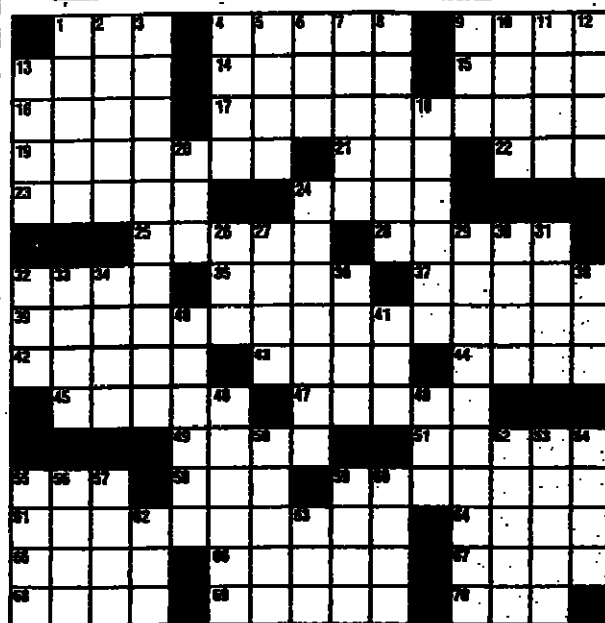
By coincidence, Alice Burnham's father and the Blackpool lady, Mrs Crossley, read the story and passed their fears about George Smith to the police. The authorities began investigations and uncovered the amazing tale of the brides in the bath.

George was brought to justice, with the famous pathologist Sir Bernard Spilsbury explaining how Smith could have lifted his brides' legs with his left arm, while pushing their heads under the bath water with his right arm.

But although the bodies of the three women were exhumed, murder could only be proven in one case, that of Bessie Mundy. And, George maintained to the end, that his wives' death had been the result of a "phenomenal coincidence."

George Smith was executed on August 13, 1915. Alone, Edith Pegler mourned his death.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Extreme degree
 - 2 Ravell
 - 3 A Turner
 - 4 Writer Ephron
 - 5 Thesplan
 - 6 So be it
 - 7 The Terrible
 - 8 Sign of disapproval
 - 9 Itinerant salesman
 - 10 Floor cleaner
 - 11 RR terminal
 - 12 Catnapped
 - 13 Brontë's Jane
 - 14 Eastern religion
 - 15 Bristles
 - 16 Of the ear
 - 17 Singer-actor
 - 18 Burial
 - 19 Venomous snake
 - 20 Frolic
 - 21 Precipitous
 - 22 Neighbor of Minn.
 - 23 Golf bag items
 - 24 Stranger
 - 25 "Love Story" author Segal
 - 26 Requisite
 - 27 up: cheers
 - 28 The limit, at times
 - 29 Genetic initials
 - 30 Food fishes
 - 31 Obstinate
 - 32 Mine entrance
 - 33 — Dominif
- DOWN**
- 1 "But only God can make —"
 - 2 Soaks hemp
 - 3 Aroused from sleep
 - 4 Ear parts
 - 5 Ring decisions: Abbr.
 - 6 Work by
 - 7 31 Down
 - 8 Exchange
 - 9 Carefully selected
 - 10 Head
 - 11 Human rights org.
 - 12 R-V link
 - 13 Broadway's Tune
 - 14 Garden bowers
 - 15 Youngster
 - 16 Andy's pal
 - 17 Salamander
 - 18 Actress
 - 19 Neagle
 - 20 Bites
 - 21 Address
 - 22 USA officers
 - 23 Corrected
 - 24 Sass
 - 25 Shakespeare's river
 - 26 Obey
 - 27 Busy as —
 - 28 Writer
 - 29 Gardner
 - 30 Approvals, for short
 - 31 Josip Broz

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GET SMART, USE CONTROL

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 2
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K J 8

WEST
♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ A K Q 9 7
♦ Q 5
♣ 4 2

EAST
♠ 9 4
♥ 6 5 2
♦ K 10 8 4 3
♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 7
♥ J 10
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 10 9 5

The bidding:
South 1 ♠ West 2 ♠ North 3 ♠ East 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
The late Alphonse, "Sonny" Moys was a staunch proponent of the theory that a 4-3 major fit provides an excellent trump suit. That might be so, but it requires careful technique to maintain control of the hand.

North-South conducted an immaculate auction to reach the only makable game. Note that, in five clubs, declarer has no way to avoid losing three tricks in the red suits.

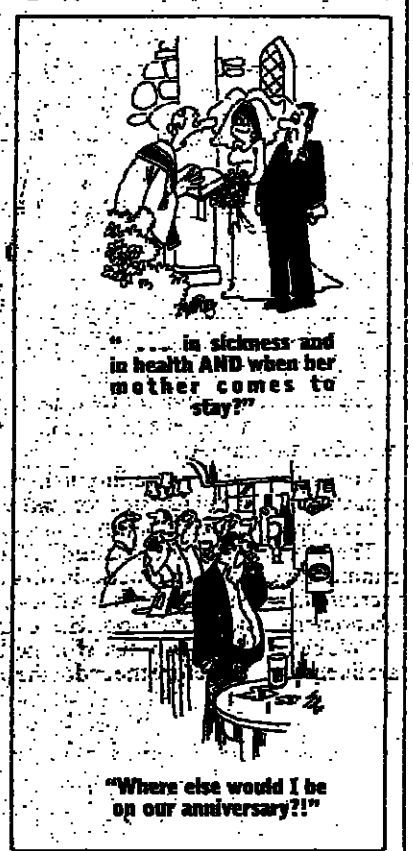
West cashed the king and queen of hearts, then continued with the ace. If the spades break 3-3, declarer

cannot go wrong. He can ruff draw trumps and claim 10 tricks: three spades, a ruff, one diamond and five clubs. However, an even spade division is against the odds. The most likely distribution is 4-2. Can declarer neutralize that?

Of course. Instead of ruffing the third heart, declarer must discard his diamond loser—a trick he would have had to surrender anyway. Now it needs only a modicum of care to make sure of the contract.

Best is for West to continue with a fourth heart. Declarer has only to take the simple precaution of ruffing with one of the table's high trumps to land his contract. All that is left to be done is make sure the spades are no worse than 4-2, draw the trumps and claim the rest of the tricks.

Who knows? Perhaps Sonny was right, after all.



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

FROSH ASKA SPA
PENTA SKIM SHAG
ADORN PARACHUTE
DRAGNET ROOTED
WINNEBAGO
REPIRE DUNSTAN
ALAN ORT TMAN
ISNT CANTH HLOE
DISH LST ELIA
EYELASH ALBERT
WINNINGER
ACTING MORSELS
CHANGESIN SEALS
RIND RICE OZZIE
ENS STES NEEDS

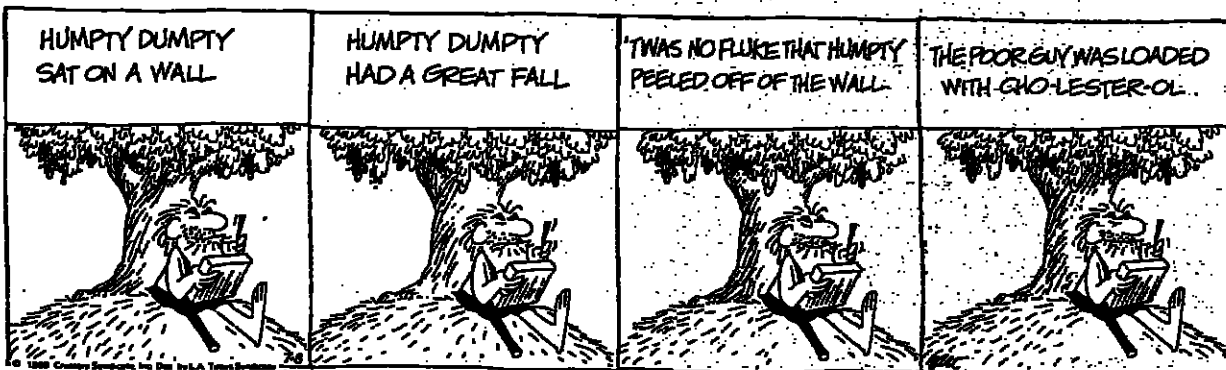
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will not be in the best of moods and will have to try not to get into an argument. Make sure you do not do anything injurious to your health. Do not let some setback get you down. Be helpful.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should make sure you do not eat more than is good for you. You will have to make up for lost time. Something you have been learning will now come in very useful. Be moderate.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should not try to do too much all at once. Have a bit more faith in yourself. You will be able to take pleasure in little things too. Try to be a little more patient and forbearing. Be hopeful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Do not allow others to get on your nerves, try to spend a little while by yourself. You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter. Make sure you do not drink to the point where you lose control of yourself. Be careful.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should not allow a hobby to become an obsession. You should also try to rid yourself of some resentments. Make sure you do not lose touch with a friend who has moved. Be tactful.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Listen to what others have to say more closely. And do respect other people's opinions. You should concentrate on dealing with a personal matter. Be considerate.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Make sure you do not leave any bills unpaid. Do your best to avoid or to clear up a misunderstanding. You will be able to make a few changes for the better. Be sincere.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You are liable to say more than you had intended, so watch it. Make sure you are as good as your word. Your lucky numbers are 6 and 18. Take the opinion of your partner duly into account. Be responsive.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You are liable to be forgetful, so do not leave things until later if possible. A friend will make some requests which seem unreasonable at the time. You should watch your weight before it becomes a cause of concern to you. Be reliable.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should try to spend more time reading and conversing, less watching television. Have a little more faith in yourself. Make sure you are dressed correctly for the climate and occasion. Be magnanimous.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Something that has been something of a mystery to you will now become clearer. Make sure you do not have too many late nights in succession. Avoid eating too much by way of sweets and cakes. Be loyal.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

If you think only you are right and others wrong, you are wrong at once. Take a little more care about what you do with your money. There is no point in trying to restore your laurels. Be firm.



An artist's impression of how George asked a landlady to go for the doctor after he had murdered Alice Burnham.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait trade volume surges

Market indices dip

THE Alshahi Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 38.71 points with a slight decrease of 0.07 point — 0.18 per cent — from last week's average.

The Alshahi Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 68.29 with a decrease of 0.20 point — 0.29 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshahi weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 23.20 million shares at a daily average of 4.64 million shares with an increase of 21 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 3.85 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 2.19 million shares at a daily average of 0.438 million shares with a decrease of 48 per cent from last week's daily average of 0.850 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD8.10 million at a daily average of KD1.62 million, a decrease of 19 per cent from last week's daily average of KD2.01 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.075 million at a daily average of KD0.015 million, a decrease of 35 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.023 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 52 per cent of total trading against 70 per cent last week.

The National Bank of Kuwait led at 27 per cent followed by Kuwait Finance House at 24 per cent and The Commercial Bank at 18 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 31 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 94 per cent followed by National Investments Company at 5 per cent and Commercial Facilities Company at 1 per cent. The services sector came third at 7 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 73 per cent followed by Commercial Markets Company at 15 per cent and Public Warehousing Company at 12 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Arabian General Investment Company (SHUAA) led at 38 per cent followed by Umm Al-Qasbi Cement Company at 22 per cent followed by Gulf Medical Projects at 18 per cent.

The market gave signs of weak performance — contrary to last week's — which was reflected on most indices in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti markets.

The concentration in trading in shares of the banking sector and in particular some of its listed companies has decreased mainly due to the increase in prices of these shares during last week.

The market has not retained its active performance for a minimum period of two weeks in order to be able to explain the increase in activity, which was witnessed last week, as a seasonal phenomena, which occurs from time to time due to different causes.

"We believe that one or two short periods of active performance are likely to occur before the end of the present year, one as a result of expected government measures and the second as a result of the year-end seasonal changes together with political desire and early projections of companies' performances."

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 23/08/89	16/08/89	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bank	116.94	116.94	—
The Gulf Bank	31.92	32.36	-0.44
The Commercial Bank	24.15	24.15	—
Al Ahli Bank	30.28	29.77	0.50
Bank of Kuwait			
M. East	31.44	31.44	—
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	28.71	28.71	—

Burgan Bank	27.06	27.58	-0.52
Kuwait Finance House	78.27	78.27	—
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	13.77	13.77	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	11.00	11.00	—
IFA	48.90	48.90	—
Commercial Facilities			
National Investments	116.88	118.25	-1.38
Kuwait Investment	62.75	62.75	—
Proj.			
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	93.26	94.38	-1.12
Gulf Insurance Co.	31.55	31.71	-0.16
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.			
Warba Insurance Co.	35.28	35.88	-0.60
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	24.62	24.62	—
United Realty	48.80	48.80	—
National Real Estate	54.98	54.98	—
Pearl of Kuwait	35.74	36.05	-0.31
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	16.31	16.57	-0.25
Refrigeration Indust.	5.60	5.60	—
Gulf Cables	35.83	35.83	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	74.60	72.22	2.38
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	16.75	16.88	0.07
Kuwait Cinema Co.	12.13	11.59	0.55
Public Warehousing	77.96	79.06	-1.10
Kuwait Comm.			
Mobile Telephone Syst.	112.00	112.00	—
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	70.22	73.78	-3.56
United Fisheries	30.29	30.11	0.19
Kuwait United Poultry	155.52	155.52	—
Kuwait Food Co.	8.56	8.56	—
Sector Index			
Overall Index	69.70	69.70	—
	36.83	36.83	—
	285.71	285.71	—
	55.09	55.09	—

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 23/08/89	Wed. 16/08/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank			
Bahrain Internat. Bank	223.68	223.68	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	88.28	88.28	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	89.22	89.22	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	78.10	78.10	—
Umm Al Quain Cement	43.94	44.70	-0.76
Gulf Medical Projects	15.00	15.38	-0.37
Total Index			
	21.46	21.78	-0.32
	68.29	68.50	-0.20

Base period 31/12/1983.
All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

America catches up to other markets

NEW YORK, Aug 26 (AP): The Japanese did it in six months. France did it in 19 months, and Britain beat the United States by 20 days.

The new record set by the Dow Jones industrial average was celebrated yesterday on Wall Street as a symbolic comeback from the crash of 1987, but other stock markets around the world have made faster recoveries.

"It wasn't that the US did poorly," Mark Sladkus, a vice-president at Morgan Stanley and Co. said yesterday. "It's that the other markets had special circumstances."

A market measure compiled by Morgan Stanley and based on overall market performance shows that the US market reached a new high on July 26, lagging Japan, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

On the European continent, 1992 became a phenomenon that investors could "sink their teeth into," and Europeans worked hard to sell investors on the concept of a single market of 320 million consumers, said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Nikko Securities Co. International Inc.

"It refocused attention on... the tremendous opportunities that will be there in the private sector" as trade barriers melt away and Europe becomes an unencumbered free market, Brusca said.

In advance of 1992, the mergers and acquisition fever that has heated up the US market for so long "spread its virus to the continent," Brusca said.

Indian rupee	18.120
Sri Lankan rupee	8.280
Pakistani rupee	14.350
Bangladesh taka	9.210
US dollar	29985
Pound sterling	47150
Deutsche mark	15330
UAE dirham	08170
Japanese yen	002096

Iran's budget deficit to shrink

Oil income set to rise

Energy meeting planned

VIENNA, Aug 26 (OPECNA): The 14th congress of the world energy conference is scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada, on September 18-21 where experts from all over the world will discuss and examine aspects of the global energy situation.

The world energy conference, which is a progressive organisation, holds its congress every three years, the last of which was held in Cannes, France, in 1986.

The five-day gathering will discuss a number of papers, including energy and industrial evolution, energy planning or drifting to disaster, financing of energy programmes: private or public, energy policies and the public, what to do now about the greenhouse effect and energy for tomorrow in the developing world.

The congress will bring together ministers of energy from many countries, public and private sector energy executives and representatives of the centrally-planned and market-oriented economies, developed and developing nations.

The world petroleum industry is currently enjoying a period of prosperity because of gains in cash flow and profitability, according to a United States investment research firm.

The Chicago-based Duff Phelps Incorporated says cash flow is expected to increase three per cent this year over 1988 levels, while profitability is set to rise from 8.3 to 9.1 per cent.

Earnings from US domestic refining and marketing operations will peak in 1989, its says, adding that growth of operating earnings from the industry's exploration and production activities will be lower.

"In some cases this will compensate for the projected deflation of downstream operations," says the company, stressing that "our expectations for increased earnings from the industry's upstream operations reflect our assumption of rising crude oil and natural gas prices over the 1989-93 forecast period."

Andrew Lebow of New York's E.D.F. Man International Futures Inc. said, "the market is still a little bit unnerved," by a government report Thursday showing an unexpectedly large growth in crude stocks of 8.9 million barrels.

The Energy Department's energy information administration reported crude inventories grew last week to 340.6 million barrels from the prior week's 331.7 million barrels.

Unleaded gasoline fell 0.85 cent to end the day on the Merc at 53.30 cents a gallon, 0.57 cent above last week.

On the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was quoted at \$18.80 a barrel, a decline of 25 cents on the day, but a gain of 20 cents on the week.

Lebow said crude prices have been supported by trader's anticipation that oil ministers of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries would meet in Geneva next

month to enforce quotas on cheating members and perhaps set new quotas.

"Now it looks like it's going to be a committee meeting and not a full meeting of oil ministers," Lebow said.

On the European spot market, the United Arab Emirates' Dubai light, the key Middle East crude, was quoted at \$15.19 a barrel, down 9 cents on the day, but up 12 cents on the week.

Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent crude lost 18 cents to \$16.96 a barrel, 6 cents above a week ago.

Meanwhile, Iran's cement production will rise 2.5 million tons annually with the expansion of four factories over the next five years, according to a high-ranking official in the industries ministry here.

Mohammad Dehnavi, director for non-metal mines, said a new plant in Orumieh, west Azarbaijan, with daily output capacity of 2,300 tons, would be completed next year.

US boosts exports to Moscow, China

Budget deficit for '90 will be \$116.2b

WASHINGTON, Aug 26 (UPI): The United States greatly expanded its trade with the socialist countries and enjoyed a surplus of \$353 million in the first quarter of 1989, the government reported today.

The quarterly balance with these countries was the first favourable one since January-March 1986, the US International Trade Commission said.

The turnaround from an American merchandise trade deficit of \$136.6 million with the Non-Market Economy Countries in January-March 1988 was entirely due to an increase in the surplus with the Soviet Union, from \$738 million to \$1.3 billion, according to the ITC.

The United States' deficit with China, at \$812.6 million, and Eastern Europe, at \$100.9 million, widened only slightly from the first quarter of 1988.

Total US merchandise trade with the NMES expanded to \$5.9 billion in the first quarter from 4.6 billion in January-March 1988.

US exports to socialist countries increased 42.1 per cent to \$3.2 billion, and imports from these countries grew 18.9 per cent to \$2.8 billion, the commission said.

The rise in exports was led by an surge in corn, mainly to the Soviet Union, and substantial increases in wheat to both the Soviet Union and China, the ITC noted. The expansion in imports continued to be dominated by US purchases of manufactured goods and food from China.

US exports to the Soviet Union climbed to \$1.5 billion in the first quarter from \$900.1 million in January-March 1988. Exports to China also reached \$1.5 billion, up from \$1.1 billion in the first quarter of 1988.

US exports to Eastern Europe fell to \$228.5 million from \$250.7 million.

Wheat was the single largest commodity among US exports to the NMES in the first quarter, at

\$767.7 million; followed by corn, at \$651.2 million; soybean oilcake, at \$192 million; and fertilizers, at \$184.7 million.

American imports from the Soviet Union increased, to \$194.4 million from \$162.1 million, but those from Eastern Europe fell to \$329.4 million from \$347.6 million.

US imports from China expanded to \$2.3 billion in the first quarter from \$1.8 billion in the year-earlier period.

The largest commodity group among US imports from the NMES remained Chinese textiles, at \$725.4 million. The commission noted that other manufacturers from China accounted for most of the growth in imports from the socialist countries.

US imports of miscellaneous manufactured articles from China, largely toys, games, and sports equipment, expanded to \$251 million from \$172.2 million, and those of footwear, headgear and artificial flowers to \$208.2 million from \$128 million, the ITC said.

Meanwhile, the administration projected yesterday that next year's budget deficit will be \$16.2 billion higher than allowed by the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law, but mandatory spending cuts still can be avoided.

Director Richard Darman of the Office of Management and Budget released the required August "snapshot" of whether the Gramm-Rudman law is being complied with. Darman said that under current law, it appears the budget deficit for fiscal year 1990 will be \$116.2 billion.

The Gramm-Rudman law requires the deficit not exceed \$100 billion next year, \$64 billion in fiscal 1991, \$34 billion in fiscal 1992 and that the budget be balanced in fiscal 1993. Failure to meet those targets is supposed to trigger automatic, across-the-board spending cuts split between defence and non-defence programmes.

Toyota's sales reach nearly \$48.9b

TOKYO, Aug 26 (AP): Toyota Motor Corp. has become Japan's first manufacturing company registering sales of more than 7 trillion yen (\$48.9 billion) in the business year ending June 1989, a company official said today.

Toyota's overall sales were 7.191 trillion yen (\$50.2 billion), up 7.5 per cent over the previous term, Toyota spokesman Hajime Sakaguchi said.

"Thanks to Japan's robust economy, the domestic market for automobiles has expanded due partly to an average 9 per cent decline in car prices following a reform of the tax system in April, Sakaguchi said.

The report said Toyota's pre-tax earnings rose 9.2 per cent to \$69.86 billion yen (\$3.985 billion) from the previous year's \$21.706 billion yen (\$3.648 billion).

With its latest consolidated pre-tax profits, Toyota was the nation's most profitable company for the second consecutive year, surpassing the 425.9

billion yen (\$2.98 billion) unconsolidated pretax profits reported by Japan's telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), whose 1989 business year ended March 31, Kawaguchi said.

During its fiscal 1989 year, Toyota sold 2,125,173 vehicles, up 8.9 per cent from a year earlier. Exports totalled 1,807,377 vehicles, a rise of 0.6 per cent from the previous year, the report said.

Of the exports, Sakaguchi said shipments to the United States and Canada, the company's main export destinations, posted a meagre 1.6 per cent increase to 953,900 vehicles, and car exports to Europe declined by 2.0 per cent to 431,000 vehicles.

Toyota exported a combined total of 1,807,377 vehicles to Southeast Asia and Australia.

Toyota predicted its sales of motor vehicles, excluding industrial vehicles, will rise 3.8 per cent to 2.3 million units in the domestic market in the financial year ending June 1990.

Gas find may be biggest ever

STAVANGER, Norway, Aug 26 (AP): A giant offshore natural gas field discovered by the Soviet Union in the Arctic sea is probably the richest ever found, a Norwegian newspaper reported yesterday.

A new well drilled to assess the Barents Sea find showed it could be several times larger than the Norway's Troll field, previously the biggest known offshore deposit, reported newspaper Stavanger Aftenbladet.

Researchers from Norway's private Fridtjof Nansen Institute told the newspaper that they learned details of the find during a visit to Moscow's Academy of Science. The newspaper said the information was confirmed by other Norwegian sources.

It holds an estimated three to four trillion cubic metres (106-141 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas compared to the 1.3 trillion cubic metres (46 trillion cubic feet) at Troll, reported Aftenbladet.

Meanwhile, Norway has said that all oil platforms in its sector of the North Sea would have to install underwater electronic devices so that submarines could identify them and steer clear.

In March last year, a West German submarine crashed into a Norwegian oil platform on the Oseberg field. The accident cost almost \$14 million in damages, which Bonn agreed to pay.

The government-funded oil directorate said each device would transmit a special noise that could be picked up by sonar systems on submarines patrolling the strategically important waters off the coast of NATO member Norway.

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Takeovers power stock market to a record high

Higher rates drive operating income into the red

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (UPI): Takeovers and programme buying powered the stock market to a record high in a week that saw no major economic news from vacationing Washington and a brouhaha over publisher Malcolm Forbes' birthday party.

Holiday Corp. sold its debt-burdened Holiday Inn division to Bass PLC, the British brewer and hotelier; Texas Air said it would consider selling Continental Airlines.

Eastman Kodak Co. and Campbell Soup Co. laid off substantial numbers of workers in belt-tightening measures.

And the government said the nation's savings and loan industry lost \$3.7 billion from April through June as higher interest rates drove operating income into the red.

On Thursday, the New York Stock Market staged one of its most explosive rallies of the year, driving the Dow Jones industrial average up 56.53 points to its all-time closing high of 2734.64.

The Dow's stunning close eclipsed the previous all-time high of 2722.42 set Aug 25, 1987, which marked the high point of a five-year rally.

Six weeks later, on Oct 19, 1987, the closely followed blue-chip indicator plummeted 508 points to 1738.74 for its largest point loss in history.

Most analysts do not expect a recurrence of that collapse, but some expressed concerns about whether stocks will sustain their gains over the next few days.

Analysts said news that Holiday Corp. agreed to sell its Holiday Inns chain to Bass for \$2.2 billion set the stage for the rally. Investors rushed to buy hotel and casino issues as well as stocks in the broader market.

In London, Bass said the acquisition would make the conglomerate the owner of the largest hotel chain in the world.

The Holiday Inn chain accounts for

10 per cent of total hotel rooms in the United States and more than 25 per cent of rooms in the mid-price sector. Holiday last year sold its Holiday Inns outside North America to Bass.

As part of the deal, Bass will assume approximately \$2.1 billion of Holiday debt.

In Houston on Thursday, Texas Air Corp. chairman Frank Lorenzo said the company has talked with potential bidders about the sale of a minority or controlling interest in its Continental Airlines subsidiary.

Texas Air, which also owns Eastern Airlines, has hired the investment firm Drexel Burnham Lambert to handle inquiries about the sale of Continental, Lorenzo said.

A class action suit was filed against UAL Corp. Tuesday in Chicago on behalf of stockholders demanding a fair and open auction of the airline and accusing directors of trying to circumvent a \$6.2 billion takeover bid by

Los Angeles investor Marvin Davis.

UAL, parent of United Airlines, is at the center of what could become a bidding war, with Davis on record with a \$275 a share bid and other groups reportedly preparing offers.

Meanwhile, publisher Malcolm Forbes was defending the opulent 70th birthday bash he threw for himself in Morocco last weekend.

Addressing reporters in the Forbes magazine building in Manhattan, he said "not a penny" of the \$2 million tab would be used as a tax deduction even though most of the guests were advertisers.

On Wednesday, Eastman Kodak Co., which recently announced an 85 per cent decrease in net income, said it is laying off 4,500 employees world-wide as part of an effort to cut costs.

Colby Chandler, chief executive officer of the Rochester, New York-based photo giant, said he hoped the move would generate \$1 billion in

operating cash flow in the upcoming year.

Analysts noted the company has had a large debt to contend with since the acquisition of sterling drug.

In another cost-cutting move Thursday, Campbell Soup Co. of Camden, New Jersey, announced plans to save \$150 million over the next four years by closing four domestic plants.

The closings in Camden, Pocomoke City and Crisfield, Maryland, and Smyrna, Tennessee, will eliminate 2,800 jobs, the company said. A one-time writedown of \$344 million, or \$2.01 a share, is to be charged to earnings for the fiscal year that ended July 30.

In Pittsburgh Thursday, USX Corp., the nation's No. 1 steelmaker, said it is restoring pay cuts and benefit reductions imposed on 5,500 white-collar workers during lean times in the early 1980s.

On Sept 1, about 1,400 hourly non-union employees will see a restoration

of the 5 per cent pay cut they took in 1983, the company said.

Wednesday, struggling Wang Laboratories Inc. of Lowell, Massachusetts, chose Richard W. Miller, an executive with wide experience at troubled companies, as its president and chief operating officer.

The choice of Miller, a former top executive with General Electric Co. and RCA Corp., is another sign the family-controlled company is moving quickly to address its growing financial problems. Earlier in the week the computer maker renegotiated its bank debt with a group of lending banks.

In Washington Tuesday, the government's office of thrift supervision said the nation's savings and loan industry lost \$3.7 billion from April through June, \$200 million worse than the first quarter, as higher interest rates drove operating income into the red and steep write-downs of assets continued.

UAE urges drop in oil, gas output

ABU DHABI, Aug 26, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates should cut its output of oil and gas to maintain reserves, the Planning Ministry said yesterday.

The official Wam news agency quoted the ministry's annual report as saying oil and gas were the best investment for the country's future and that reserves should be made to last as long as possible.

A Reuters survey shows that UAE oil output has risen since last year and that last month it produced 1.8 million barrels per day (BPD), compared with its OPEC-assigned sales quota of 1.041 million BPD.

The UAE, whose main export is oil, has argued that its quota should be raised because of the size of its reserves, estimated officially at about 100 billion barrels. They would last more than 100 years at the current production rate.

Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed said early this year the UAE should exploit its oil reserves before an alternative world energy source emerged.

The Planning Ministry said production should be linked to development requirements and to diversifying sources of income.

Meanwhile, public and private investment in the United Arab Emirates from 1976-85 reached \$73.88 billion, the Ministry of Planning has disclosed here.

A study on the economic and social development of the country, says investments totalling \$33.67 billion were recorded up to 1980, while the remaining transactions worth 40.21 billion were made in the following five years.

Light industry played a "significant" role in the performance, especially in construction activities and the diversification of the country's infrastructure.

Jordan dinar firms

AMMAN, Aug 26, (Reuters): The Central Bank, which says its foreign currency reserves now exceed \$500 million, intervened again today to push up the dinar.

The central bank announced on Friday that it would sell dollars to banks at 700 fils to be resold at no more than 705. Previously central bank dollars had been available at 730 fils to be sold to the public at no more than 735.

Dealers said banks were awash with dollars because many Jordanians had moved back into dinars over the past two weeks.

"We don't need the central bank's help as our rates are even better than their latest offer," one said.

Banks were trading the dinar at 675/705 fils to the dollar, up from Thursday's 690/730. The dinar has 1,000 fils.

The central bank fixed the official rate, used for key imports of food and medicine, fees of Jordanians studying abroad and remittances of foreign agricultural workers at 600.4/606.4 fils, the same as on Thursday.

Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi, in remarks published by the local Al Ra'i newspaper on Saturday, said he expected the dinar to stabilise between 600 and 700 fils to the dollar before the end of this year.

He said the foreign exchange reserves stood at more than \$500 million, compared with \$20 million in May.

The increase, mainly due to fresh injections of Arab aid, has enabled the central bank to flex its muscles in the market to stabilise the dinar and encourage Jordanians working abroad to send their dollars home through the banking system.

Nabulsi told Al Ra'i that recent monetary and financial moves had eliminated 80 per cent of the black market, where the dinar was trading at 685/695 fils to the dollar today.

He was apparently referring to intervention by the central bank over the past three weeks to try to close the gap between the official and bank rates for the dinar.

Officials say the dual exchange rate system will be phased out by November when an International Monetary Fund is due to visit Amman to evaluate progress on economic reforms.

Currency rates

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2980	0.2995
Sterling	0.46821	0.47032
Dm.	0.15237	0.15303
S. fr.	0.17684	0.17743
S. fr.	0.045241	0.045436
It. lire	0.00021221	0.00021310
Jap. yen	0.0020757	0.0020851
Bp. dinar	0.79238	0.79583
UAE dh.	0.0811350	0.081685
S. riyal	0.079858	0.079988
Q. riyal	0.080242	0.080403
O. riyal	0.77590	0.77529

Economy set to expand further

Japan's businesses ready to increase capital investment

TOKYO, Aug 26, (UPI): Japan's economy continued to expand for 33 consecutive months through August or the third longest postwar period amid deepening economic interdependence of nations in the world, official reports said yesterday.

The government's Economic Planning Agency said in a monthly report that robust domestic demand, fuelled by strong personal spending and corporate fixed investment, continued to stimulate the domestic economy.

"I don't think the current trend will change at least for the months to come," an official of the Economic Planning Agency said, expressing optimism over Japan's near-term economic outlook.

The 33-month stretch of growth compared with a 57-month span, starting in 1963, and a 42-month period, starting in 1959, the agency said.

"Japan is one of the nations enjoying the greatest benefits of free trade, which has brought forth the close interdependence of nations," said an annual report by the semi-government Japan External Trade Organisation.

The report said trade among Japan, North America and

Europe accounted for more than 70 per cent of total world trade in 1988.

Exports by the United States grew 25.5 per cent to \$308.1 billion, decreasing the country's trade deficit to \$317 billion from \$170 billion in 1987, the report said.

It said exports by the European Economic Community totalled \$1.06 trillion, up 11.4 per cent.

"The world economy is characterised in part by an interdependence of nations, which has been serving as a foundation of world peace," the report said.

"Today, the mechanism for achieving growth through international trade includes even socialist countries such as the Soviet Union, and the economy of the world is ready to evolve as a global economy in a real sense."

With improved living standards, Asian newly industrialised economies and countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have emerged as "enormous consumption markets," the report said.

The proportion of the Asia-Pacific region in global trade increased to 24.5 per cent in 1987 from 16.7 per cent in 1980.

"Above all, remarkable expansion of international trade took place centring around Asian ties and ASEAN members," the report said.

On the domestic scene, the Economic Planning Agency's report said the strength in personal consumption was observed in household spending for June, which rose an inflation-adjusted 0.7 per cent over a year ago.

Japanese corporations, both in manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors, have been bolstering investment in plant and equipment in anticipation of bright business and earning prospects, the report said.

It said Japan's current account surplus, a broad measure of trade in goods and services, has been narrowing with high-pitched growth in imports.

In June, the latest reporting month, the agency said, Japan's current account surplus decreased 32.8 per cent from a year ago to \$4.12 billion, marking the fourth straight year-on-year decline.

The agency noted that both wholesale and consumer prices remained stable and the employment situation improved with the ratio of job openings to job seekers standing at 1.34, an

improvement from 1.27 in May and 1.16 in April.

Japan's commercial sales in the April-June period rose 6.0 per cent over a year ago to 139.49 trillion yen (\$982.4 billion), the Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported yesterday.

The ministry said the report was based on a survey of more than 6,000 wholesalers and 9,000 retailers across the nation.

The report said combined sales of wholesalers totalled 110.63 trillion yen (\$779.1 billion), up 6.7 per cent, while those of retailers amounted to 28.86 trillion yen (\$203.3 billion), up 3.1 per cent.

The report said sales picked up in May and June after a slump in April, when Japan's first 3 per cent sales tax was introduced.

In the wholesale sector, active corporate investments drove sales of trading companies sharply higher although sales of clothing were sluggish, the report said.

Automobile sales marked a double-digit rise of 28.4 per cent, thanks to the sales tax, which brought the tax on car sales down to a uniform 6.0 per cent from the 18.5-23.0 per cent under the old commodity tax system, the report said.

Gloomy future for economy

JAKARTA, Aug 26, (OPECNA): Former Indonesian Co-ordinating Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Widjojo Nitisastro has warned of impending world recession, worse than the great depression experienced in the aftermath of the stock market crash of 1929.

Addressing a group of businessmen here, he expressed doubts that the rapid growth enjoyed by the industrialised countries over the past seven years would be sustained into the 1990s.

But he stressed there was no cause for excessive worry as "it is a normal thing, part of a cycle" to which the world economy had always been subject.

The main indicators drawn in support of his conclusions were cited as the oil price collapse of 1986, the stock market crash of 1987, the continuing decline in primary commodity prices, spiralling interest rates, dollar depreciation, the United States budget deficit and recent upheavals in international currency rates.

Widjojo said he wondered whether it would be possible for industrialised countries to sustain growth, while debt in the developing world accumulated in the wake of continuing high interest rates.

NYSE composite index surges Wall Street's long-running bull

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP): As they study the forces behind the advance that carried the stock market to record highs in the past week, some analysts look far beyond the latest swing in interest rates or the economic outlook for 1990.

The impressive gains in stock prices this year, they say, have merely extended a historic bull market that can be traced back to 1982, when the Dow Jones industrial average stood as low as 776.92, or even 1974, when it bottomed at 577.60.

As the charts of this long climb keep stretching out, they make the crash of 1987 look less and less like the cataclysmic event it seemed at the time, for all the pain it inflicted.

The first would-be historians of the great bull market see several large-scale themes running through it:

■ A return to free-market economic policies in the world's industrialised countries after the increased reliance on government control and regulation that had taken place in the years since World War II.

■ A sense of capitalism of the offensive and communism on the defensive around the world, with economic power gaining importance over military might.

■ A largely successful campaign to subdue inflation in the United States after a scary surge in prices in the 1970s that had eroded confidence in financial rather than tangible assets.

■ The "restructuring" of American industry, under pressure from foreign competition, to make it fit once again to hold its own in global markets.

Broad generalisations of this kind make many investors squirm. Any time people start believing grandiose claims about the supposed significance of what the market is doing, veterans of the game start to suspect that stocks are ripe for a fall.

Still, ideas like this suggest that the stock market

has been doing a lot more in the 1980s than just bouncing around wildly at the whims of computer-programme traders or the latest monthly economic statistics.

Furthermore, they represent the kind of long-term thinking that separates true "investors" from traders bucking the horse odds to try to profit from a hot tip or takeover rumour.

At the close on Friday, Dow Jones' average of 30 industrials stood at 2,732.36, up 44.39 from the week before.

Among the broader indexes that had preceded the Dow to new highs several weeks earlier, the New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.15 to 194.79, the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market gained 4.78 to 466.75, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 2.00 at 381.18.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 165.96 million shares a day, up from 148.84 million the week before.

The back-to-nature economics movement underlying the bull market hasn't always been a pretty or popular phenomenon.

It has been accompanied by financial scandals in both the United States and Japan, upheavals in the once-stable working environments of countless employers, and a long-running debate over whether the energy boom of rampant self-interest will take any society where it wants to go.

Many observers worry that it has spawned excesses — most notably in the use of borrowed money at every level of the economy — that could sooner or later turn the market's heyday into a wistful memory.

But for now at least, it has validated the faith of true believers in the long-term merits of stock ownership. 1987 crash or not.

Australian airlines seeking new pilots

SYDNEY, Aug 26, (Reuters): Australian Airlines, their domestic services grounded by a two-week-old labour dispute, were searching for new pilots today as both sides in the bitter wage row spent the weekend planning their next moves.

A spokesman for all three airlines said today events had moved so fast that everyone was using the weekend to take a break from hostilities and catch up on paperwork.

All 1,600 pilots resigned en masse on Thursday to avoid being picked off one-by-one with legal action and dismissal over their 30 per cent pay claim, and the airlines advertised for new pilots today in major

Australian newspapers.

But an Australian Federation of Airline Pilots spokesman said today that none of its members had responded to the offer and that they were preparing for a long campaign.

The same advertisements will appear in newspapers in New Zealand, the United States, Britain and the Far East.

State-owned Australian Airlines and its private counterparts Ansett and East-West Airlines, are using the weekend break to work with lawyers to catch up on paperwork after a week which has seen more than 100 pilots flying in Australia than aircraft.

Peter Young of Ansett, speaking for the

three airlines, said in a telephone interview from Melbourne: "Airline staff and lawyers are dotting the I's and crossing the T's on writs issued last week and preparing for the ones to be issued next week."

Young confirmed there had been no immediate response to the newspaper advertisements but noticed applications would have to be made in writing and none was expected for a few days at least.

The airlines are taking action against both individual pilots and the Australian Federation of Airline Pilots in an effort to recover damages for lost revenue — up to 5 million dollars (\$4 million) a day for Australian Airlines and at least one million

dollars (\$750,000) by East-West.

The airlines also face long-service and pension payments of between 500,000 and one million dollars (\$375,000 and 750,000) to each pilot, money the pilots need to help them through the stoppage.

But at least one airline is now trying to link its lawsuits to the pay-out and has advised those pilots being sued that it will withhold them pending settlement of any court action.

The airlines are also preparing to implement the decision of Transport Minister Ralph Willis to allow international airlines complete freedom to run services anywhere in Australia during the dispute.

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed. 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

Farewell party
SEPT 1 (Friday): The Bangladesh Association will organise a farewell function for the Economic Counsellor Abdur Rahim Khan at 7 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises. Bangladeshis are requested to contact for details with following persons: Moaz, 4310970, Yusuf, 4314943, Maksudul Rahman, 4881593, Mozammel Haque, 2551312, Ashraful Islam, 4836235 and Abdur Rob, 4316823.

People's Art Circle
A MEETING was held at Dr Riaz A. Mahesar's residence to form a committee to organise musical shows and dramas. As per Rafiq A Mirza, general secretary Pakistan Peoples Club, People's Art Circle is formed and is headed by Yakub Pasha with the following committee members: Salman Shah, Ustain Manzoor-ul-Hasan, Samia Sani, Syed Zafar, Mohd Musa Blouch, Qamar Pervez and Agha Saeed.

Kalpak exhibition
SEPT 15: Women's wing of Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts at the Indian embassy hall from 3 pm to 8 pm. Those interested to show their work

creation, please contact on telephone No: 5632708/4316737/5626620.

Syndicate live
SEPT 15: In a rare spirit of camaraderie, two leading Goan organisations in Kuwait, the Weekend Club and Kuwait Goans, will jointly host "Syndicate Live," a musical extravaganza, at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium, featuring Goa's one and only, The Syndicate, with Kuwait's Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers and Stepping Stones with a host of local artistes. Watch out for booking plans.

Melody Night '89
AN evening of popular Indian music by local stars from 6.30 pm to 10 pm on Friday 8th Sept '89, at the Sharq Co-op Society Hall. For details contact Tel: 5640389 between 3.00 pm and 10.00 pm or Al Bahar Video. Tel: 5615730.

Filchick chess
SEPT 26: The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filchick) invites all Filipino Chess enthusiasts to join the first "Active Chess Tournament".

Attractive prizes await the lucky winners. Entry forms are available at Kabayan Restaurant. Deadline for submission of entries is Sept 15. For more details contact Edward Racaza (2421868, 2402405), Chito (2443961) or Jun (2409650).

Breeze '89
OCT 26: Timv Centre's - Breeze '89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam hotel New Ballroom at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music, lots of surprises await. For further information pls contact the organisers, Cassim or Mario on Tel. No. 2441860/67 after 3.30 pm.

British Council
THE British Council presents "Briefing on Britain" a special video presentation for students who are going to Britain this autumn for higher education. Will this be your first experience of studying in Britain? If so, and if you would like to participate in complementary briefing sessions please telephone us to find out more details. Contact Kate Harrison, Education Adviser. Tel: 2515572/2537304/2537327.

Star Nite
DEC 21: Star Nite at Ramada Salam 'Al Dira' with Perfect Strangers music. Children entry KD.3/- from 2-1/2 years to 12 years. Others KD.4/- with sumptuous buffet. Fabulous hamper prizes and variety social entertainment under 555 sponsorship. For reservations contact tele. (res) 5331940 or 2413706 pm only.

Flassik's contest
FINAL preparations are now under way for the ultimate singing contest in Kuwait held for the Filipino population in this Gulf state.

Flassik president Grace Fe N. Covarrubias announced that auditions are held at the Far East Restaurant on Fridays, August 18 and 25 and 11 am and 4 pm and on Sundays August 13, 20 and 27 at 5 pm. Participants are encouraged to bring their music tapes.

Last Friday's auditions yielded a bevy of song lovers who will vie for valuable prizes during the contest slated for Friday September 1, at 4 pm, at the Meridian Hotel.

For more particulars, kindly contact the following Flassik officers: Chary Nepomuceno Tel. 5624509, Rose Formantes: 4843601, Malon Tadana: 4881358, Esther Madamba: 5312700 ext 4221, Marilyn Inductivo: 3940600 ext. 2230 & 4521 and other Flassik officers or the event vice-chairman Al Castro of Martin Marietta Data Systems.

D'Aassisi Association
OCTOBER 6: Ninth annual Thanksgiving mass will be held at the Holy Family Cathedral at 8 am followed by a get-together after mass. All D'Aassisi ex-students along with their families and friends are invited. For more details contact: 2444379 or 2469811.

Konkani drama
NOVEMBER 2, 3: The new GOA presents M. Boyer's "Chintnam Zalim Sopnam" at the IAC (Funaites). Cast includes the Charlie Chaplin of Goa 'Jacinto Vaz' along with Remy Colaco, Vez Coutinho, Betty Naz and others. For tickets contact Canary Video (Sharq) or Video Club (near GPO).

FILM

British Council
CHILDRENS film: The Little Prince. For the Love of Animals on Wednesday, Aug 30 at 6.00 pm and Thursday, Aug 31 at 10.30 pm.

An enchanting animated adaptation of the classical tale by Antoine de Saint Exupery. Join the little prince as he catches a flaming comet for a ride down to his favourite planet earth! (running time 50 mins)

Admission is free, but it is advisable to book seats in advance. Tel: 2515512/2533204/2533227.

HOTELS

At the Pullman Hotel
AL Shallal coffee shop: Offers daily businessman's lunch "autour d'un plat" at a reasonable price. Serves Arabic and international dishes. Live music nightly from 7.30 pm.

Les Elysees Restaurant: Experience the ambience of French seating and meticulous service while savouring authentic French food offered on our "menu degustation," a four course meal served with a touch of nouvelle cuisine. For reservations, call: 5634200

At the SAS hotel
AL GHAZEER: SAS hotel's very own handicraft show. Available for half day or whole day trip along the Gulf coastline. Food, beverages and fishing tackle provided on board. For booking, call 5657000 ext 416.

AL BOOM: Dine on charcoal grilled foods and finish off with della coffee. Open for dinner daily, lunch every Thursday and Friday and for reservation call 5657000 ext 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Chinese specialties served in a very cozy atmosphere. Open for lunch and dinner. For reservation, call 5657000 ext 403 or 532.

EEDAM: Wide varieties of delectable home-made goodies, freshly baked items to choose from. Eedam daily specials also available.

CLOCK: Only drive-in restaurant in Kuwait. Serves wide selections of fast food including our very own specialities.

At the Kuwait International
LA PALMA: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Ext 8166.

Failaka: Rooftop restaurant overlooking Kuwait's picturesque coastline. Offers international cuisine and elegant surroundings. Live entertainment during dinner. Closed on

Friday, Ext. 8012.
Garden Pool: Relax and enjoy our poolside barbecue event every Friday afternoon.

La Patisserie: Offers an extensive selection of pastries, oven fresh bread, savouries, exotic juices and ice creams. Also serves Continental breakfast. Pianist in the evenings.

At the Kuwait Plaza hotel
SPECIAL breakfast: Al-Dallah coffee shop features the breakfast you like most. Full buffet of all kind of delicious dishes to be savoured by you. Eat as much as you can and whatever dish you fancy for only K.D. 0.995 only.

Special lunch and dinner: Also at Al Dallah coffee shop the buffet for lunch and dinner full of varieties of continental, oriental and Arabic food with Plaza special touch plus delectable sweets and fruits of the season. All these and more for only KD.2.995.

Roman nights: The Italian restaurant in the heart of Kuwait takes you to the heart of Rome. Enjoy our exotic Italian specialties and our wide variety of Italian dishes with the music of our resident duo Stan and Alice.

SPORTS

Fit for life
LADIES' Keep Fit classes at La Palma Fitness Centre at the Kuwait International on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Free use of the pool after each session plus free use of the sauna on Tuesdays. Also judo, karate and taekwondo classes. Individual coaching for tennis and swimming available. Garden poolside barbecue every Friday afternoon. Recreation facilities include bowling, snooker and health club with sauna, steam bath and plunge pool. Telephone Paul or Vivienne at: 2530000/8050.

IAC badminton
SEPT 7: Indian Arts Circle (IAC) will organise a badminton tournament open to all Indians in Kuwait. All those wishing to participate are requested to contact the organising committee for further information and entry forms: Contact IAC office Tel. 3904817 (6.30 to 10.30 pm); P.K. Koshy. Tel: 3985278 or 3913076; Vijay Sharma. Tel. 2401534 or 2644863; Philip Cherian. Tel. 4741946 or 4330041. The last date for entry is Sept 2.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

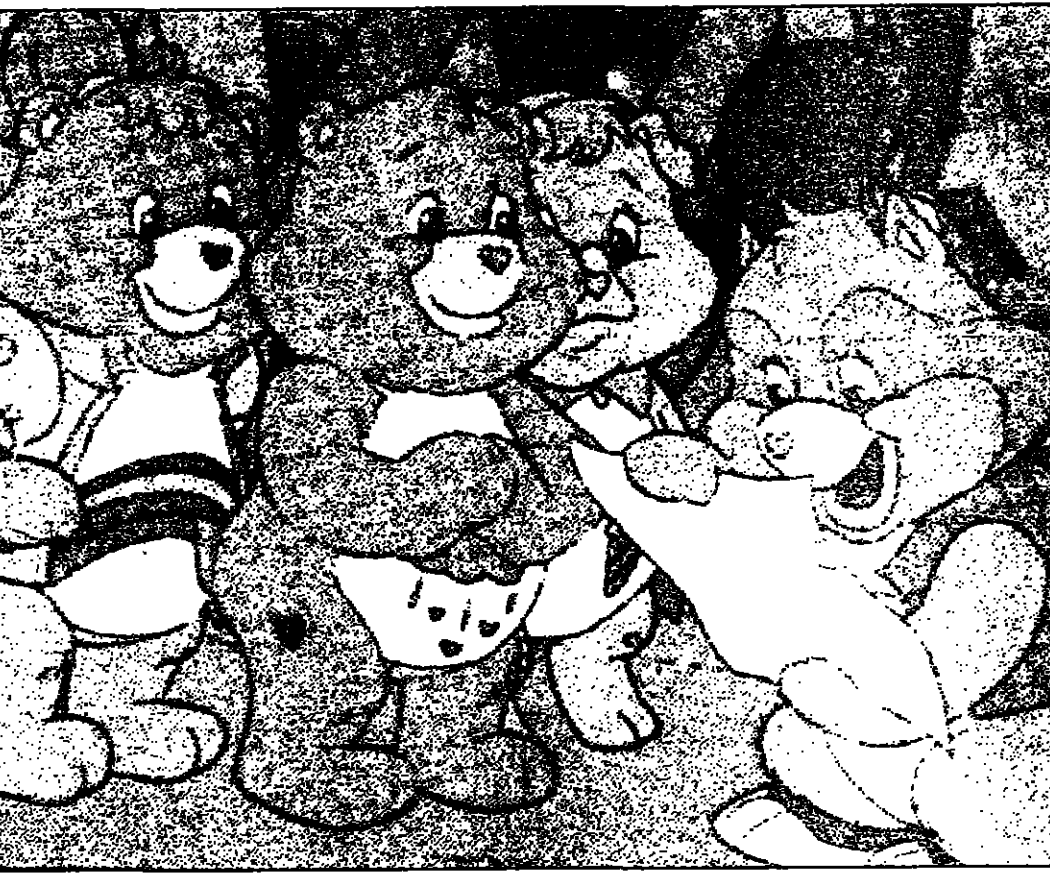
9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning programme
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Daily Arabic serial: Asar Al Hub
11.00 News in Brief
11.15 Local serial: Ablah Munera
12.05 News in Brief
12.15 That's Incredible
1.00 News in Brief
1.05 World Today via Satellite
1.30 Sport Billy: cartoons serial
2.00 Songs
2.15 Arabic serial: Al Hejra Ela Al Watan
3.15 Religious programme
3.35 Cartoon serial: Little Dragon
4.00 Arabic film: Al Wazir Jai (the minister is coming). Starring: Sayed Zayan, Salah Qabil
6.00 Children serial: stories from the Holy Quran
6.30 Public announcements
7.00 Cultural programme - Space
7.45 Agricultural magazine
8.15 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabat
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Arabic serial: Ana Wa Inta Wa Baba Fi Al Mishmish
10.30 Variety programme
11.45 News in Brief
11.50 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

KTV 2
6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Care Bears: Cartoon serial



Ahmad Badir on KTV 1 Arabic film 'Al Wazir Jai' at 4.00 pm today.

6.30 Sea Hunt: 'Ultrasonic' Tug' Bryan, a man with odd behaviour seeks the help of Dr Mike to find out his brother's sunken boat. But Mike's daughter finds out Bryan's real aim.
7.00 Architecture At The Cross Roads: 'Architecture: Que Vadis.' A look at new and modern architecture of schools.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Flying Doctors: 'The Hitch-Hiker.' Vanessa on her way to Darwin in northern Australia faces many difficulties as she plans to reach there hitch-hiking.
9.30 The Secret World: 'The Deadly Sea.' Sea beds as a source of horror and fear.
10.00 Kate and Allie: Allie gets acquainted with a young man. But she needs a shock to regain her reason.
10.30 Bestseller: 'The Four Minutes Mile' (Part 1). Breaking a mile in four minutes had been the holy grail of athletes. In May 1954 four athletes of three continents were all attacking the elusive barrier.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite and Closedown



Care Bears cartoons on KTV 2 at 6.10 pm today.

French fashion fair in Hong Kong

MORE than 30 French fashion companies will display their products of fabrics and textile at Hong Kong International Fair due to be held from Nov 15 to 17. The French role will enhance the German contribution as main suppliers of fashions to Asian markets. This will boost the position of Hong Kong as an importing and exporting base. The Fashion Fair at Hong Kong attracted more than 20 countries including Asian countries as Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

At a seminar held in Hong Kong under the auspices of the Federal Express and Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the lecturers admitted that Asia had become an important market for luxurious fashions and home wares. Japan represents 11.5 per cent of the international sales of Hermès Company, while South East Asia represents 16 per cent.

Kapilku night

THE Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold their last stage of the Kapilku Night on Friday, Sept 29, 1989 at Holiday Inn Hotel at 5.00 pm.

The singing contest will include the Bagong Kampeon and Sing-Alike. All contestants who may wish to join the singing contest in each category may contact V. P. Sarah Macarimbang chairman on telephone number 4843447 and Rod Cerezo, co-ordinator on telephone number 2433595. Registration will start today and end on Sept 25.

Prizes await the winners and special awards will be also given to all the winners.

The grand final for the Kapilku Night will be on Oct 17 and cash and in kind worth KD1,000 will be given to the winners in each division, that is, the Bagong Kampeon and Sing-Alike contests. All the previous winners are requested to contact the chairman for further details.

Favoured bowling teams dominate

By Sonny Mariano

THE favoured teams continued to dominate the on-going PBAK Inter-commercial Bowling Tournament which is now on its third week of gruelling action.

In the men's division, National bannered by a number top caliber players from Kuwait's National team garnered the highest number of points this week with their 61 which put them well on top of the 12 teams vying for top honours.

Not to be outdone was the equally strong team of Cabana who posted a total of 59 points and close behind the leaders were Magnolia (57) and NTC (56).

In the women's division, Far East Restaurant the odds on choice to run away with the crown managed to submit the best score for this week with 52 despite their depleted line-up. Trico and Canara-Land Bank both have 50 points each while Al Sara Design Ltd only came up with 47.

This week's high game came from Amy Abdon (216) of Al Sara and Saleh (235) of

National. The High Series on the other hand was recorded by Florence Cagaid (523) of Canara and Sameer Abu Dargum (628) of National. For the record, last week's High Series for men was submitted by Rod Dulay with 615 and not as previously printed.

Other results in the men's division: Tectron (50), Al Rashed (55), Phil. Supreme (53), Trico (47), Hempel (54), Jokers (45), Penguins (49) and Pullman (51).

Schedule of games the coming Friday Sept 1, 1989 are as follows:

Women's division:
9.00 - 12.00 Trico vs Canara-Land Bank; Far East vs Al Sara Design

Men's division:
1.00 - 4.00 Al Rashed vs Trico; NTC vs Cabana; Magnolia vs Pullman
5.00 - 8.00 Penguins vs National; Tectron vs Hempel; Phil. Supreme vs Jokers

PBAK president Rico Pino reminds all officers of the meeting to be held today, Sunday, at Mabuhay restaurant at exactly 7.00 pm.

Meanwhile, at the con-

clusion of the 4th PBAK monthly championship for non-seeded bowlers last Wednesday Aug 23, Rene Cabardo and Beng Gutierrez came out victorious in their respective division after resting their opponents in the step-ladder finals.

In the men's group, Rene Cabardo was the top qualifier with a total of 573 pinfalls followed by Freddie Fernando with 566 and not far behind in third spot was Hassan Mohammed (562) while Bert Papas came in fourth with 556.

In the step-ladder, Bert Papas edged Hassan 177-152 but Freddie Fernando halted him climb to the top with a 176-164 decision. In the first game of the two game final match Freddie was able to eke out a 189-188 squicker over Rene Cabardo who came back strongly in the next game to win by a score of 176-156 which in turn gave him the upperhand in total pinfalls for two games and the title as well.

Back to the women's group, Gemma Soriano topped the elimination round with a score of 509 and just a single pin behind was Beng Gutierrez

with 508. In third position was Mayeen Abesamis and Bebot Celeste with 459 completed the list of finalist.

In the finals, Bebot outscored Mayeen 139-129 in the first game before Beng stopped Bebot 169-141. Top finalist Gemma Soriano was to meet Beng for the title but her non-appearance automatically relegated her to the runner-up position and Beng got her well deserved title.

Coming up next! 4th monthly championship for seeded bowlers on Aug 28, Monday at 6.00 pm - also at the 300 Club bowling lanes.

Flassik's voice of the 90's

THE Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait held an audition for those who will qualify for the final selection for its "Search for the Voice of the 90's," the ultimate singing contest for Filipino residents in Kuwait. Previous auditions exposed a bevy of talents featuring the best Filipino crooners in this Gulf state. The clientele patronising Far East Restaurant last Friday were treated to various melodious renditions by the qualified contestants who will vie for the title "Voice of the 90's" on Friday, Sept 1, 1989 at 4.30 in the afternoon, at the Meridian Hotel. The pre-selection committee had a difficult time in selecting those who will compete on Sept 1. However, the following contestants met the panel's criteria:

Romeo Alojado, Rockee Adeva, George Albayda, Glenda Avila, Midel Cruz, Millet Domingo, Andy Gabriel, Robert Geza, Minda Geronima, Fely Gaudia, Vicky Luna, Milano Mendez, Benny Perez, Lito Randrup, Greg Ramon, Vincente San Buenaventura, Rodney Villarama, and Cynthia Rabe.

Flassik director Esther B. Madamba who explained to the audience that the "Voice of the 90's" is just a break for Flassik from its priority welfare projects. The singing contest serves the needs of the other sectors of the Filipino community who toil hard to earn their living here in Kuwait.

Samsung computers in Kuwait market

A LOT of interest has been generated, in the Kuwait market, by the aggressive introduction of Samsung computers. Samsung Electronics Company (SEC) is already a household name in most of the world through its home appliances. With more than \$4 billion total sales in 1988, Samsung is one of the giant companies of Korea and a leader in business internationally.

Samsung has been in the forefront of technology since 1974 when it started manufacturing semiconductors. Now more than 3,000 types of highly

sophisticated semiconductor products are made by Samsung. Samsung was the world's first company to manufacture 4M DRAM. These achievements, coupled with high devotion to quality control and great emphasis on research and development, make the computers manufactured by Samsung truly outstanding. Kuwait customers have been impressed by their neat design and high functionality.

Al Andalus Trading Company is the distributor of Samsung computers in Kuwait. A

New finance attache at Philippine embassy

THELMA Amador Samiel, the newly designated finance attache of the Philippine embassy in Kuwait arrived last Aug 3, to assume her post. Her main task is to assist Filipino contract workers in the remittance of their earnings into the Philippines, through a fast, secure and economical system, thereby bolstering inward remittances of foreign exchange into the country.

Thelma will be utilising the service of Landbank of the Philippines, a fully owned government bank for the programme.

She will visit companies with Filipino contract workers and explain the programme in details.



PRAYERS

Fajr	4.00 am
Zuhr	11.49
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.15
Isha	7.36

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street, Al Awqaf Building
Loulia Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street, Near Dasmann Complex
Nugra and Hawalli
Hawalli Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street, Al Hashmi Building
Salmiya and Rumathiya
Qortouh Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street, Northern Salmiya Building
Fahabel and Ahnadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road, Opp. to Abu Halifa School
Jleeb Al Shoyoukh
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Shoyoukh Commercial Market Complex
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The New Commercial Market

CINEMA

Al Firdous
Toofan
Al Andalus
Red Scorpion
Al Salmiya
Revenge of Nerds II
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Al Fahabel
Bruce Li in New Guinea
Al Jahra
Bade Ghur Ki Granada
Sagar Sangam
Sulaibikhat
Commando Wild Geese
Drive-in
Arabic film
Fahabel Open-air
Ram Bhurose
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

Power rates on the rise

By Margie Quimpo

POWER rate will go up 2.5 centavos per kilowatt hour every month from September to December this year. The increases will mean an additional P3.50 each month in the bills of most consumers of the Manila Electric Company.

Ernesto Aboitiz, president of the state-owned National Power Corporation, said the staggered increase applies to the Luzon and Visayas grids. He said hydro-based power in Mindanao will increase by half a centavo per kilowatt hour.

The increase will bring the generation charge of the power firm to P1.08 per kilowatt hour from present rates of P0.98 per kwh. NAPOCOR Chairman Ponciano Mathay said it will be the first time in four years that the power firm is increasing its rates.

Aboitiz also said NAPOCOR is considering a two-centavo monthly increase in the power rates from January to February next year. This will bring the rates to P1.12 per kwh.

Aboitiz said, however, there will be no increases next year if

the government puts in equity in the power firm, if the firm earns more, or if its fuel costs go down.

The Department of Budget is proposing a P995-million equity allocation by the government to NAPOCOR.

Aboitiz described the rate increase as a "two-rate increase" for the fuel oil and geothermal costs.

The increase in the rates was prompted by the 50-centavo increase per litre of fuel oil ordered by the Energy

Regulatory Board Wednesday and the adjustment in NAPOCOR's steam cost of P0.0217 per kwh.

He said that the cost of generating power from steam sources went up because NAPOCOR had to pay the Philippine National Oil Company for the power firm's failure to meet the minimum volume of steam generation as stated in their contracts.

NAPOCOR has not fully used its geothermal based plants in the

Visayas grids since customers in the area failed to fulfill their load commitments with NAPOCOR considering the economic depression in the 1980s.

Aboitiz said that the staggering of the rate increase was "for consumers to adjust."

The 10-centavo NAPOCOR rate increase is expected to result in an average 13.4-centavo per kwh increase in the rate of Meralco, NAPOCOR's main customer.

NAPOCOR currently charges P0.98 per kwh to Meralco. This will go up to P1.08 by year end. Meralco will be charging an average of P1.214 per kwh by the December this year.

This means that most residential consumers will experience a P3.50 monthly increase in their electric bills in the next four months or a total of P14 by year-end.

The average residential consumer uses some 178 kilowatt hours monthly which costs about P250. With the new power rates, the average household will pay P253.50 for September, P257 for October, P260.50 for November and P264 for December.

Meralco consumers using less than 70 kwh monthly will not be affected because of the subsidised rate programme of the electric firm.

A Meralco official said that the industrial users will suffer most from the recent price increase. Big industries use some 80,000 to one million kilowatt hours per month and they will shell out an additional P150,000 to P2 million monthly.

The ERB ordered the increase of four petroleum products — fuel oil, aviation turbo, thimmers and asphalt — last Aug 17.

Prices of gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas remained the same.

The government is still trying to find funding sources for the Oil Price Stabilisation Fund (OPSF) to prevent any increases in the prices of gasoline and other products.

The OPSF was established to cushion the impact of fluctuating fuel prices and changes in the peso-dollar rates.

It currently has a deficit of P2.8 billion and is incurring deficits of almost P800 million monthly.

ESTIMATED INCREASE IN MONTHLY BILL OF RESIDENTIAL MERALCO CUSTOMERS GIVEN A 2.5 C/KWH INCREASE IN NPC RATES

MONTHLY KWH CONSUMPTION	PRESENT ELECTRIC BILL	MONTHLY INCREASE IN BILL	TOTAL BILL EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER
38	51.50	0.00	51.50
110	125.46	1.30	126.76
191	275.25	3.93	279.18
332	456.89	8.52	465.41
682	1,186.42	19.89	1,206.31
1,737	3,350.92	54.18	3,405.10

Cory: no ground for PAP extermination

PRESIDENT Aquino has defended the Philippine Assistance Programme (PAP) which, of late, has come under blistering attack from his former Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod.

"There is absolutely no ground for abolishing the Philippine Assistance Programme just because a former member of the Cabinet does not agree with it," the President said.

Monsod, who resigned in June over policy differences on the country's debt strategy, also said the co-ordinating council of PAP was funded by the United States. Thus, she told the Senate the other day this has enabled the US to interfere in disbursement of funds for specific projects.

"The grants given for feasibility studies and project preparation do not give a donor country the right to interfere in the decision-making process," Aquino said.

The President issued the written statement in answer to written questions submitted by newsmen. She said the decision to identify and approve projects is prerogative of the Philippine government.

Meanwhile, Robert Villanueva, chairman of the co-ordinating committee on PAP deplored Monsod "for the use of trivial arguments to discredit the PAP programme which can bring untold benefits to our people if properly used."

"Critics of PAP must be reaching the bottom of the barrel when they assail the use of USAID grants for feasibility studies, project preparation and programme support because NEDA itself has been using similar grants in the past and for the same purpose," Villanueva said.

Aquino maintained there was nothing unusual or irregular in the use of grant funds for feasibility studies or for project preparation.

"This is a practice that has been followed in the Philippines and other countries as part of the official development assistance (programme)."

The President said disbursement of PAP funds will follow "normal government procedures."

"No group outside the Philippine government can assume authority to disburse funds for specific projects or for any purpose whatsoever," he said.

She said a total of 19 countries and eight multilateral organisations offered the Philippines grants and concessional loans totalling \$3.5 billion in last month's meeting in Tokyo.

Of the pledge, \$1.5 billion is new money, the President said. Monsod claims only \$251 million is new money.

Aquino did not answer newsmen's question about Monsod's allegation that Washington was using PAP money as leverage for the continued stay



President Aquino

of US military facilities in the country.

The President said she welcomed the report that Philippine debt negotiations had reached an agreement with foreign banks on a debt restructuring plan that involves new loans and buy-backs of part of the country's \$28-billion debt.

She said the negotiators, led by Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez Jr will return next week from New York and will report to her and the Congress. They will return to New York next month to hammer out details of the agreement, the President said.

The Washington Post reported Wednesday that the agreement appeared to be departure from the Bush administration's debt reduction strategy for the Third World in that the Philippines seeks fresh loans from international banks on a "voluntary" basis.

The Post, quoting banking sources, said the Philippines wants to borrow about \$800 million or more, by issuing bonds.

At the same time, the Philippines will use cash reserves obtained from the International Monetary Fund to buy back some of its debt at a discount from banks willing to accept reductions in their claims, the Post said.

Miriam's boldest move on PARC

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago said she has asked President Aquino to inhibit himself from the discussions by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) next month on Hacienda Luisita, a sprawling sugar estate owned by the President's family in Tarlac.

The President is chairman of PARC. Santiago, in turn, was reminded by the President to regularly attend the Wednesday Cabinet meetings.

Santiago said the President noticed her absence during last Wednesday's meeting. She said she was in Tuguegarao, Cagayan distributing land titles to farmers.

"I was very gently reminded by the President to faithfully attend all cabinet meetings," said Santiago after meeting with the President at the Guest House to discuss the PARC agenda.

Santiago has asked the President to inhibit himself from PARC meetings on Hacienda Luisita to erase doubts on whatever decisions would be taken on the 6,000-hectare estate.

"I suggested that perhaps it would be best if the President went on leave (as PARC chairman during the discussions)," said Santiago. PARC vice-chairman.

She said the President decided to refer the matter to Executive Secretary Catalino Macarilag Jr.

"The President is actually conscious of the code of conduct for all government officials which she applied scrupulously to herself," Santiago said. And it bothers her that there are any — even so much as a shadow of a moral doubt about her participation.

The PARC monitors and oversees the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme.

The Cojuangco's have availed themselves of the CARP's stock-transfer option scheme which allowed the President's family to distribute shares of stocks to the

Cojuangco corporation instead of distributing land titles from the estate.

The stock-transfer option gives landlords a 10-year moratorium on physical distribution of lands.

Asked about Santiago's suggestion for the President to inhibit herself in the hearings, Sen. Heherson Alvarez said: "It may be proper but not correct."

He explained that a Cabinet member can always give an advice to the President but he said "it was the President who had, I think, ordered the review of this matter so she's very much aware of the possible conflict of interest that might arise from it."

He added that Santiago's advice might be "misunderstood and might hurt the programme more."

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas has charged the Hacienda Luisita stock distribution was a hoax, saying the Cojuangcos undervalued their estate to lessen the amount of stocks that would be distributed to their farm workers.

On her Cabinet attendance, Santiago said she assured the President she will faithfully attend Cabinet meetings "to avoid being consigned to the doghouse...even if they (Cabinet meetings) prove hazardous to my equanimity."



Santiago

Kidnapped in Angola

A FILIPINO contract worker has been kidnapped and is being held hostage by UNITA rebels in Angola, reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

In a telex to the DFA, Philippine honorary consul to Luanda Christian Hellingner identified the contract worker as Jesus Baldonado, a security officer at the Cafunfo Diamond Mines which was attacked by the rebels.

Baldonado was on duty last Aug 12 "during the time of the attack of the rebels," said Hellingner. "As of this date, there is no confirmed information with regards to his whereabouts."

A check with the Middle East and African Affairs section of the DFA disclosed that there are about 710 Filipinos working in the socialist country where UNITA rebels supported by South Africa are fighting the Cuban-backed government.

Angola, with a population of 8.9 million, lies between Zaire and Namibia in southwest Africa.

In other developments:

● The 65 Filipino contract workers who walked out of their jobs last week in Qhoms in Libya have returned to work, according to the Philippine embassy in Tripoli after they were assured by their employer, the Libyan firm NCC-MNW, to listen to their grievances.

● The Philippine embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, has asked the DFA for assistance in the repatriation of Sandra Montebon, a Filipina nurse undergoing psychiatric treatment and whose employer has refused to pay for her repatriation.

● The Philippine embassy in Baghdad has asked the home office to notify Iraq-bound contract workers of a possible six-month delay in remittances "due to foreign currency restrictions."

● A Filipino tourist, identified as Raul Hernandez, has been arrested by Japanese immigration authorities in Osaka for using a fake work permit. The authorities said Hernandez entered Japan in April last year on a 15-day tourist visa and later found work in construction sites.

From the provinces

PARANQUE, Metro Manila: A PC sergeant assigned as bodyguard to Brig. Gen. Manuel Brian, Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG), was shot dead by four armed men during a robbery in a passenger jeepney on Coastal Road, barangay San Dionisio here.

Pfc Rolly Santiago, officer-on-case, identified the victim as S/Sgt Alejandro P. Escano, 48, of barangay Bata, Santiago, Isabela.

Escano suffered a bullet wound in the eye, police said.

Police said that Escano was aboard a passenger jeepney with plant No. DEX-724 when the robbers armed with knives and handguns announced the holdup.

Police said that while the robbers were divesting others passengers of valuables, Escano pulled out his .357 calibre magnum but he was outdrawn by one of the robbers who shot him point blank in the face.

Escano was reportedly thrown out of the jeepney by the robbers. (Aris Iñan).

MANILA: Criminal charges were filed before the Sandiganbayan against three fiscal agents (now asset monitors) of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Accused of violation of the anti-graft law were Herminia Rivera, Herminia Carrasco, and Guillermo Aviles — members of the PCGG's fiscal committee assigned to the sequestered Pampang Pilipino complex in Malate.

The filing of the criminal cases was approved by Ombudsman Conrado M. Vasquez on recommendations made by Special Investigation Officer Jane Aurora C. Lantion.

Bail of P15,000 was recommended for each of the accused.

The charge sheet alleged that on Aug 8, 1986, the three fiscal agents took P2.5 million from the management of Pampang Pilipino and deposited the money in their personal accounts with a bank.

It said the acts of the three fiscal agents constituted "gross inexcusable negligence amounting to evident bad faith to the damage and prejudice of the government and the Pampang Pilipino complex."

MANILA: The PC said that the 2.5-ton unprimed cases belonging to Arms Corp. of the Philippines and ordered held by customs authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is covered by an authorisation.

Brig. Gen. Victor G. Natividad, deputy PC chief, who signed the authority on behalf of Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, PC-IMP chief, said the permit to purchase the unprimed cases is based on prior approval of Defence Undersecretary Fortunato Abat.

The shipment is also covered by a commercial letter of credit to the order of Prudential Bank of Makati and other import documents, Butch Tasson, president of Arms Corp. of the Philippines, said.

Arms Corp., a pioneer in gun manufacturing in the country, imported the unprimed cases from Hans Wagg and Comp. of Hamburg, West Germany.

TAGIG, Metro Manila: The Bicutan Parochial School, a new Catholic school which shares in the task of spreading the gospel, elected recently the officers of its Family Council.

Elected were Rodolfo Lacaran, president; Teofilo Hipolito, vice-president; Salvador de la Pena, secretary; Bernadette Mirasol, treasurer; and Teofilo Hipolito, PRO.

Class (II Ruby) officers are Bernardo Mirasol, Anatolio Pilo, Michelle Torrejas, Iris Calang, Gerald Alquina, Kowalsky "Cookie" Lacaran, Janet Fernandez, Dennis Julius Vera, and Michael de la Cruz.

BATANGAS CITY: The Batangas Post, a community weekly, has won a case filed by two other periodicals which protested its participation in the raffie of legal and judicial notices for publication.

The Supreme Court upheld the Post's publication right granted by the late regional trial court Judge Romeo Silva.

On Sept 6, 1983, Silva issued a memorandum whose dispositive portion reads as follows:

"Considering that the Batangas Post and the Country Recorder have now com-



Alano examines the passport of Moesek who covered his face

plied with the requirements of PD1079, the undersigned is now removing the exclusive privileges originally granted to Tumbaling Batangas and the People's Courier, and henceforth all four newspapers will participate in the raffie of legal and judicial notices."

Protesting the memorandum, Tumbaling Batangas and the People's Courier sued, charging Judge Silva and acting clerk of court Bienvenido M. Recinto of abuse of discretion.

The administrative case, which dragged for six years, reached the high tribunal. Last March 16, the Supreme Court dismissed the case against Silva and Recinto and at the same time, upheld the judge's memorandum.

MANILA: Filmmedia Inc. has been appointed sole distributor of the World Science Series for Metro Manila.

This was announced by Larry A. Hernandez, president and general manager of H. Academic Management, exclusive importer of the New Age Encyclopedia and authorised importer of Bay Books of Sydney and London.

Jojo Labrador, Fil-Media president, said that at affordable prices, the World Science Series is a child's valuable tool for better education.

The A. Academic-Filmmedia agreement for books distribution in the first of a series of similar agreements the Hernandez firm will forge in other parts of the country in the third quarter of this year.

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City: Six members of the citizens and armed forces geographical unit (CAFGU) were dismissed while 200 others were placed under investigation for various offenses, it was reported.

Dismissed were CAFGU members Eduardo Abiog of the 202nd Brigade based in Lumban, Laguna, and Eric Molera of the Laguna Constabulary command, both facing homicide cases filed against them; CAFGU member Manuel dela Roca of the 217th PC company based in Rosario, Batangas who was charged with alarm and scandal; and CAFGU members Teodora Morcella and Arnoldo Atienza, also both of the 217th PC company who were involved in kidnapping and shooting cases.

The names of the dismissed CAFGU elements were made available by Lt. Col. R. Gatchalian, Southern Luzon command's judge advocate general. Gatchalian recommended the dismissals of the six CAFGU members to Brig. Gen. Alejandro A. Galido, Solcom commander.

Jess Decena of the Solcom's public information office said that the dismissal of the six CAFGU members is in line with the campaign against misfits and scoundrels in the armed forces.

TUGUEGARAO, Cagayan: Residents of this town and nearby towns condemned the continuous operations of the small-town lottery (STL) even as the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in Manila has already withdrawn the authority given to STL operators to conduct lotto experiments here.

The residents and some local officials said the PCSO has sent memorandum circular No. 17 withdrawing effective July 15, the authority given to Cagayan Valley Management and Blue Pearl

Management and Development Corp. to conduct experiments on lottery operations.

Some residents said that Blue Pearl still continued to operate in spite of the PCSO order. Cagayan Valley Management has already ceased from operations and is awaiting further orders from the PCSO.

The PCSO memorandum mandates that effective the middle of July, any lottery or continuance of experiments will be unlawful and not authorized by the PCSO because it will take over the STL operations here on or before the end of the month.

LAOAG CITY: Provincial Board members Nestor Corpuz reported that a businessmen's group here is urging President Aquino to reopen the Laoag airport to international flights.

"We are asking the President to reopen it because it is part of our proposed P3 million integrated tourism development project in Laoag," he said.

Corpuz said the move was initiated by the local chapter of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry of which he is the regional governor for Ilocos.

The use of the airport, he said, will encourage tourists and investors to come here for relaxation and business activities.

"We expect some 50,000 visitors from Taiwan and Hong Kong. Many of them came here during the past years," he added.

Corpuz explained that under the P3-million project, private entrepreneurs will be asked to tap the tourism potentials of the province in line with the government's privatization programme.

QUEZON CITY: A PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) sergeant was shot dead on his way to work by four men, believed to be New People's Army (NPA) hit men, in Quezon City.

Slain was Sgt. Fidel Santos, 30, a member of the Capcom North Sector Command. He died from three bullet wounds in the head.

Police said that Santos was shot while he was walking along Howmarr Road, Barangay Baesa, Novales, about 7:30 am yesterday.

Witnesses said Santos was followed by two of the four gunmen, while the two others came from a restaurant. All four were armed with .45 and .38 calibre handguns. They took Santos' valuables and a 45 calibre pistol and fled in a tricycle.

MANILA: Education Secretary Lourdes Quisumbing appealed to all students to be more reasonable in their rallies against tuition hikes or else classes in public and private schools will be extended to April.

She added that bad weather may also cause the class extension.

To avert the extension of classes, education officials, school administrators, and students must hold dialogues, Quisumbing said.

Meanwhile, some provisions under Republic Act 6728, the education of subsidy law, will be restudied by the State Assistance Council (SAC).

Quisumbing, SAC chairman, said this was agreed upon by technical panels of the Senate and the House education committees.

Increase in fuel prices assailed

OPPOSITION to the higher prices of four oil products mounted and one newly formed multi-sectoral group said they would stage protest marches and rallies next week.

Rep. Hernando Perez (LDP, Batangas) criticized Malacanang for approving the price increases soon after Congress legislated higher minimum wages for private and government workers, saying this could fuel a further spiral in commodity prices.

He said recent wage increases have sent the inflation rate up to 10.3 per cent, and warned that the "worst is yet to come" with the approval of higher oil prices.

"Even now prices of basic commodities are rising to unprecedented levels and double-digit inflation is a reality," Perez said in a privilege speech. "This threatens to render meaningless the recently mandated benefits and, if left unchecked, leave wage earners worse off than before."

The threat to stage protest actions was issued by the Coalition Against Oil Price Increase (CAOPI), which announced that it would lead a march to Malacanang next week to protest the government's decision to allow oil companies to raise the prices of fuel oil, aviation fuel, asphalt and thimmers.

Nick Elman, a CAOPI spokesman, said the price increases were "patently deceptive" since government also planned to increase the prices of gasoline and diesel. He said the increases announced on Tuesday could already cover the higher price of crude oil in the international market.

Elman also warned that increases in power rates, freight charges and fares, which are expected to follow, would further erode the purchasing power of the peso and fuel inflation.

The Philippine Consumers Foundation, Inc. (PCFI) said it deplored Malacanang's decision to raise oil prices even while the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) was still conducting public hearings on the oil companies' petition for price increases.

Jose Isp, PCFI executive trustee, also said the formula used by the ERB in determining the rates of increase was defective. He said his group would continue to present arguments against increases in oil products during the hearing on August 22 and 23.

Meanwhile, Enrique Santos, vice-president for corporate communications, of Philippine Airlines, said the company will continue charging current rates for domestic passengers. PAL will collect higher fares when the Civil Aeronautics Board approves its pending petition for a 16-per cent increase in fares, he said.

Trial for slay suspect

PRESIDENT Corason Aquino has waived the right to military trial of PC Lieut Col Jaime Liwanag, former Masbate provincial commander who was implicated in the March 17 assassination of Moises Espinosa Jr of Masbate.

In a transmittal to Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, Aquino directed the prosecution and trial of Liwanag before a civilian court.

Liwanag was relieved as Masbate provincial commander following the Espinosa's killing at the provincial airport allegedly perpetrated by Espinosa's political rivals.



Liwanag

SNIPPETS

Aunt's killer arrested: The driver who robbed and killed his aunt in Las Pinas recently and his alleged New People's Army (NPA) former comrade girlfriend were arrested by police in Tarlac.

Las Pinas police chief Maj. Gonzalo Gonzales said that Garry Lu 19, 16, Kaniya St. Dona Manuela Subd., Las Pinas, and his lover Jalia Batanga, 17, of Panacan, Davao City, were arrested at 5 pm in an abandoned house in Sitio Mangalago, Barangay Victoria, Tarlac.

An informant tipped off the police of Lu's whereabouts, Gonzales said.

Lu was the principal suspect in the killing of Violeta Feleo, 33, also of Dona Manuela Subd., Las Pinas. She was found dead in the basement of her house with a bullet wound in the right temple, police said.

Batanga, Feleo's maid, was Lu's lookout when he robbed and killed his aunt, police said.

Extort case: A German accused in court in Cebu City, by a 15-year-old boy of committing acts of lasciviousness against him, told a trial court here an immigration employee has asked P20,000 from him so that he could be "given justice."

Peter Lamsch made the revelation as he took the witness stand to testify in the hearing of a case filed against him by one Rey Cantoria, a native of Masbate and former houseboy.

He said the immigration man brought him to a third class midtown hotel where he was arrested and allegedly demanded for P20,000. He said he refused to give the amount.

The German, however, refused to identify the immigration man. He told newsmen he just did not want to fight the bid.

Lamsch has been facing court trial for allegedly forcing Cantoria to perform sexual acts against his will.

He admitted he had performed sexual acts with his 15-year-old houseboy but without force.

Leathers' raided: National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents raided two firms manufacturing fake bags, wallets, attache cases and other leather products of a Paris based company.

NBI agent Mamerto Espertore identified the firms as Laida's Bag Factory at 29-B Congressional Ave. Ext. Proj. 6, and Rose Vir's Bag Manufacturing Company at 116 Rd. 20, Proj. 8, both in Quezon City.

Seized from Laida's were leather goods with the trade mark and logo of the French company Louis Vuitton.

The owner, Adelaida Viray, was not around.

Confiscated from Rose Vir's were fake V.L. lady's handbags, shoulder bags, traveling bags, rolls of leatherette materials and sewing machines.

The owner, Adelaida's sister Rose, refused to give a statement.

Vuitton presented as witnesses Miguel Domingo and Bayani Alpon.

Five for life: Five men who robbed and raped a businesswoman last October were sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment by a Kalookan City judge.

Judge Renua Victoriano also ordered Ernesto Abarril, 24; Conrado Estrada, 20; Joseito Pajalago, 37; Clemente Cavallero, 22 and Rommie Andale, 24 to pay the woman, 48, P20,000 and return the money and jewelry they took from her.

Victoriano and Special Court Prosecutor Neptali Aliposa found the five guilty of robbing and raping the woman at about 7 pm last Oct 14 at a vacant lot on 4th Ave., Kalookan.

The Chinese businesswoman was walking along 4th Ave. when Abarril and a companion dragged her at knifepoint to the vacant lot where Estrada, Pajalago, Cavallero and Andale joined them.

The woman told the court the men were laughing when her dress was torn. She claimed they then took turns raping her.

"Pagkatapos nila akong pagsamantalahan ay pinaghahabol ang suot kong alahas pati na ang pera ko," the woman said.

Officials not to hold other posts: Elected barangay officials are prohibited from holding other public positions including membership in the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and the barangay tanod brigade, the Department of Local Government said.

DLG Undersecretary Jacinto Rubillar, Jr., said the constitution states that no elective officials shall be eligible for appointment or designation in any capacity to any public office or position during their tenure.

Rubillar issued the statement, in answer to a query from Roseller Soro the municipal development officer of Florida Blanca, Pampanga who asked if barangay officials who are members of the CAFGU can discharge the duties of both positions.

Soro also asked if an elected barangay official who refuses to assume his position and remains with the CAFGU is punishable under the law.

Ministers arrested: Two Australian ministers, in the Philippines to attend a world conference of evangelical Christians, were arrested in Kidapawan, North Cotabato where they went to report on demolition of squatter homes.

Al Senturias of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines said the Rev. Martha Newman and the Rev. John Smith, both of Melbourne, were arrested while photographing the effects of July 8 demolition of hundreds of squatter shanties in Kidapawan.

Newman and Smith had flown to the town at the request of local Protestant UCCP bishop Lorenzo Genotiva, to document the demolition.

Senturias said local officials ordered the demolition because the squatters were living on government land earmarked for a nursery. But he said residents, who had been living there since 1985, had petitioned the Regional Trial Court to suspend the demolition.

6 gangmen arrested: Six members of a Sampaloc-based Ativan gang were arrested by Manila policemen while serving two German with drugged soft drinks.

They were Cristeta Mercedes 24, Della Soriano, 40, Raymundo Fuentes, 34, Antonio Fuentes, 38, and Bernardo Fuentes, 51, all of 1834-A Sergio Loyola St., Sampaloc, and Lucita Manalang, 24, of 1827 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila.

A police team led by Sgt. Lucio Margallo IV and Hubert Nunez and Cpl. Graciano Bautista surrounded Soriano's house Wednesday when an informant told them the gang would victimize two people.

Manalang and Manalang then arrived with Germans' wallets.

Gangman jailed: (WPD) Quiapo detachment that Rubio was being accompanied by a homosexual.

Four policemen waited outside the inn. At 12:30 am, Lopez went out. The policemen brought Lopez to the police station where he yielded the .45 of Rubio, gold necklace, two diamond-studded gold rings and P6,800, presumed to be owned also by the Air Force man.

Abrupt wedding plans: A wedding plan by two young lovers ended when the man, mistaken for one of three robbers who barged in a Kalookan City sari-sari store, was shot dead by a pursuing policeman.

Marine engineering student Alvin Arellano, 18, of 137 Magtanggol St., Kalookan, had just come from the house of his fiancée Maribel Tillea, 18, on A. Mabini St., Maypajo where they planned two years ahead about their wedding when he was shot.

Witnesses said Arellano raised his hands so he wouldn't be hit but he was shot and stoned in the head. A police photographer placed a bayonet knife in Arellano's waist when he fell, they added.

Police claimed Arellano tried to stab Cpl Alexander Trias, prompting the policeman to shoot. The bullet hit Arellano in the left side of the body.

"Bakit ganon? Najataas na ang kanyang kamay binari pa siya, nilagyan pa ng patanim," Arellano's mother, Julieta, 41, said in tears.

Witnesses said Arellano was not among the three men who barged into the store of the Seguro family on A. Mabini St., Maypajo at about 10 p.m. and held the family hostage.

Two of the alleged robbers — Michelle and Edgar Comandano — were also shot dead.

Their companion Rolando Bustarte, 18, of Kaval St., Dagat-Dagatan, was captured.

Bustarte said Arellano was not a member of their gang and denied knowing him. "Hindi raman siya karama, kung bakit pinatay siya," he added.

Victim's bride-to-be Maribel

Suspect Bustarte

Jai alai causes protests

OPPOSITION to the reopening of jai alai fronts appeared to have gathered strength, with two senators saying they would block the measure once it reaches the Senate.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the committee on games and amusements, said they would reject House Bill 24632 which seeks to grant a franchise for the staging of jai alai games to the Royal Amusements Corp.

"While we would be obliged to look at the House bill as soon as it is transmitted, it is unlikely that we will calendar it for the rest of the year," Maceda said. "It also has very little chance of passing the Senate of passing the Senate this year."

Sen. John Osmena also vowed to oppose the measure. "I have consistently been against all forms of gambling and I will strongly oppose the proposed jai alai measure if it reaches the Senate," he said.

Cebu Gov. Emilio R. Osmena, the senator's brother, also registered his opposition to the reopening of fronts anywhere in the country. He said he

would lobby Cebu congressmen, and ask President Aquino, if necessary, to reject the bill.

Gov. Osmena told newsmen if the Manila front were to be allowed to reopen, other fronts might as well be allowed to operate since there would be no way of containing the proliferation of masiao, an illegal numbers game based on the winning numbers of the top three finishers in the "special llave." Cebu City has the only other front in the country.

Maceda said the Senate has taken a "conservative stance" against gambling by recommending the abolition of small-town lotteries (STL).

The Senate games and amusements committee has also recommended the phasing out of casinos by 1992.

Earlier, 10 members of the opposition in the House of Representatives and 15 members of the so-called Progressive Bloc said they would vote against the bill.

But a rough count in the House indicated the measure

would sail through since only 22 congressmen have indicated strong objections to the bill.

Debates on the franchise bill were scheduled last Thursday, but the committee on rules struck it off the calendar at the last minute without giving any reason.

Catholic Church leaders, however, have remained non-committal on the issue of reviving the once-popular Basque game.

When asked for comment, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said, "Oh, I don't know. I don't know."

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal also withheld comment on the issue, but promised to make a statement soon.

Meanwhile, Rep. Hernando Perez denied that the committee on ways and means which he heads had endorsed the bill.

"The committee only deliberated and passed upon the revenue and tax aspects of the bill. It did not pass upon the merit of the bill," he said.

Perez said his committee had



no "jurisdiction over the franchise (and) it did not take a stand as to whether jai alai should be reopened or not."

"This issue (reopening of fronts) is an issue separate and distinct from the merits of its tax and revenue-related provisions,"

he said.

The House committee on games and amusement headed by Rep. Dante Tinga (LDP, Taguig-Pateros) earlier estimated that government would earn about P146.3 million a year if jai alai were to be revived.

P100m BPI loan signed

A 100-million peso loan agreement was signed in Cebu city by the Bank of the Philippine Island (BPI) and the Gaisano family, owners of the Philippines' biggest chain of department stores. The amount would go to the completion of "White Gold City," another addition to the Gaisano chain of commercial stores in Gen. Santos city in Cotabato, a spokesman said. Signing the loan agreement were Joseph and Francisco Gaisano and officials of the BPI-Family Bank headed by bank vice president Ricardo Balbido Jr. Cebu white gold executive Joseph Gaisano said construction work on the proposed white gold house in Gen.

Ordonez's future threatened

JUSTICE Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez and key officials of his department will be dismissed if they fail to send big-time crooks to jail by the end of the year, President Aquino warned.

The President's warning was delivered personally to Ordonez and other key justice department officials at Malacanang after which she issued a three-paragraph announcement.

"Nothing impairs the credibility of government more than the common perception that we have two standards of justice: one for the poor, and another for the rich and powerful," Aquino said.

"We have done nothing to disprove this perception. Until now we have not secured the conviction of that elusive 'big fish'."

"The role of the Department of Justice is very critical for the continued growth and stability of our society," the President said. "If we are unable to enforce the law, there is no reason for us to be in government."

Press Secretary Adolfo Azcuna said the President delivered the warning to the justice officials "one on one" at the Guest House. Those who were called to Ms Aquino's office were Ordonez, Undersecretaries Eduardo Montenegro and Artemio Tuquero, Chief State Prosecutor Fernando de Leon and director Jose Antonio Carpio of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"I am now placing all of you under probation," the President said in her statement. "At the end of the year, we will assess your performance as individuals and as a department."

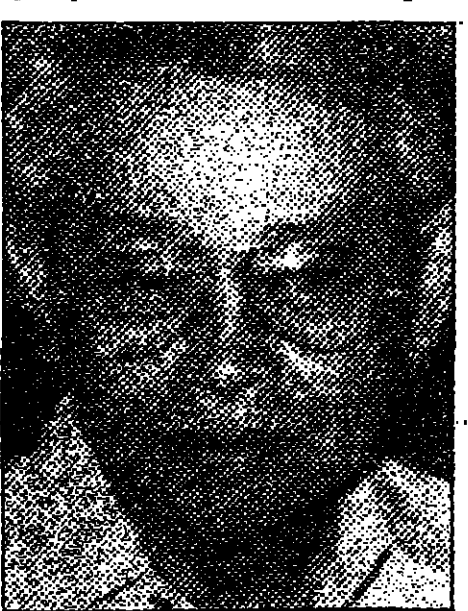
"If I am not satisfied, I will not hesitate to exercise my power to remove appointees. I want the Department of Justice to do its work with a greater sense of urgency at all levels," the President said.

But Ordonez later told reporters that the President used the word "probation" figuratively.

"Every employee, every official is on probation," he said. "That doesn't apply to us alone."

Asked what his department's problems were in catching bigtime crooks, Ordonez said: "We have to depend on the evidence that is available. We only prosecute. The decision is to be made by the court."

"The evidence is gathered by the military, by the police establishment and that is given



Ordonez

to us," he added.

Azcuna said the President's action was part of her announced programme to meet with one department head each week to monitor their performance.

He said the President designated Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, Jr. action officer to monitor the Justice Department's performance.

Azcuna also referred to the President's State-of-the-Nation address at Congress on July 24 where Ms Aquino said she wanted to leave as legacy a clean and honest government.

In the earlier meeting on Tuesday, the President directed Ordonez to "secure the immediate convictions" of the top three tax evasion or smuggling cases filed in courts.

Cabinet Secretary Jose de Jesus reported that five cases against large-scale smuggling and tax evasion have been filed in court, six against illegal logging, two involving law enforcers and another two on human rights violations as a result of Aquino's directive.

Ordonez issued the order a few hours after President Aquino placed him under probation allegedly his failure to prosecute big time grafters in the government.

Azcuna also blamed Ordonez for the slow disposition and double standard of justice in the country. She also threatened to remove Ordonez if he fails to improve the situation before the end of the year.

Ordonez refused to comment directly on Aquino's order. He added, however, that four teams were created upon her suggestion.

Ordonez said the four teams will be headed by the four DOJ Undersecretaries Silvestre Bello III, Ramon Liwag, Artemio Tuquero, and Eduardo Montenegro.

Requisition to translate laws

Move fully appreciated

TWO senators proposed the translation of all laws, resolutions and "enactments" of Congress into Filipino and other major Philippine dialects to enable the people to fully appreciate, respect and follow them.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Joseph Estrada, authors of Senate Bill No 1263, said the measure would make people overcome their seeming apathy towards laws which are "couched in a foreign language that is alien to us."

They said most of the country's laws are written in English, and people in the provinces cannot understand them.

"For the masses of our people, understanding the law can only be possible if these are rendered and made available to the main language or dialect read or spoken by them," the senators said.

The proposed legislation would create a Commission on Translation composed by five commissioners who must be proficient in English, Filipino and the major languages of dialects of the country, such as Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Bicolano and Arabic.

The commissioners would translate the laws, resolutions and enactments of Congress into dialects spoken by no less than 500,000 people.

The commissioners to be appointed by the President would be subject to confrontation by the Commission on Appointments. They would be assured of tenure until the age of 70 unless they are removed sooner for cause.

"I think it is important that the laws of this country be always promulgated in a language understood by the people, because it is only by understanding the laws that the people can be induced to respect and follow them," Pimentel told reporters.

Closer look at rice problem

DURING the sudden spiralling of rice prices recently, the \$64 question was: why did the National Food Authority (NFA) fail to buy more paddy last season to ensure the adequate supply of staple?

The NFA replied that it lacked funds. It added that the NFA is required by law to buy paddy only at P3.50 a kilo, while traders cornered most of the produce since they offer higher prices to farmers than the government cereal agency. The price of rice started rising during the past months as the supply became scarce due to hoarding by unscrupulous rice traders.

The NFA appears helpless in stopping the price hike because its stock is of inferior quality, observers said.

The rice problem of the country may be traced to the failure of the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) and the NFA to apply for the US Department of Agriculture under Titles I and III of Public Law (PL) 480 of the US "Food for Peace Programme."

From all indications, the DAF is unaware of the US food assistance programme.

The country's top officials can't decide on whether to import rice due to the non-inclusion of the Philippines in the 1989 rice allocation programme extended on a long-term credit by the United States to friendly countries.

Based on a recommendation of the cabinet, President Aquino approved the importation of 200,000 to 250,000 metric tons of rice, which will cause a drain of \$750 million in the country's dollar reserve.

The acquisition will serve as a buffer stock in the coming months to be positioned in strategic places in case of a shortfall in production and when the commercial stocks are low. It will also help victims of calamities such as typhoons and droughts.

Charges filed against Binay

Another 12 also involved

THE Commission on Audit has recommended the filing of criminal charges against Mayor Jejomar Binay and 12 other Makati officials for their alleged involvement in the malversation of public funds amounting to millions of pesos.

In a report dated July 15, the COA reconfirmed its earlier findings that several transactions approved by the Makato officials were attended by irregularities.

"The abuse of authority and disregard of rules and regulations necessitate the imposition of penalties on those involved," COA chairman Eufemio Domingo said in a letter to Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme.

Binay and the 12 officials were earlier accused by councillor Roberto Brillante of massive malversation of public funds, falsification of public documents, usurpation of official functions, violation of election laws and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

In his complaint, Brillante named the other officials involved in irregularities as Roberto Chang, Delfin Almada, Nelson Irasga, Nicanor Santiago, Feliciano Bascon, Marissa Chan, Romeo Barrios, Azucena Diaz, Virgilio Clarete, Godofredo Marcelo, Armando San Miguel and Salvador Panglinan.

Binay, however, said he was innocent of the charges. He said the same issues had been raised against him by his political opponents when he ran in the Jan 18, 1987, elections.

"In the light of the latest development, I reiterate my innocence although I expect my political opponents and detractors to intensify their attacks on my integrity," Binay said in a press statement.

"But I will not be bothered nor disturbed in my sworn responsibility of serving the people of Makati in accordance with their mandate because my shield from such attacks is my clear conscience," he added.

An audit conducted by COA found seven cases of irregularities, including payroll padding, falsification of public documents, unauthorized purchases and disbursements, overpricing and irregular disbursements of funds.

The cases government auditors found to be irregular or unnecessary included:

● Reimbursements of more than P1.5 million made to Feliciano Bascon, Association of Barangay Captains president, for expenses incurred on two projects.



Binay

The expenditure of P979,248 for food and supplies during a two-day cleanliness and beautification drive on July 17 and October 17, 1987.

● Purchase of construction materials and supplies worth P1.2 million.

● Overpriced purchases of other construction materials from October 1985 to February 1986 for which the Makati government paid P477,905.

● Purchase of foodstuff worth P9,999 million for "Pasko ng Makati '87."

● Reimbursements made to Marissa Chan, head of the Social Services Department/Anti Squatting office totalling P1.37 million.

Old cars are the latest treasure to carnappers

IF you own a Toyota car model 1976, watch out: car thieves just love your car.

That old trick of parking your "old" car beside a sleek, luxury Mercedes Benz unfortunately, no longer works.

Car thieves prefer "old" cars because these are easy to sell — whether as a whole car or

"chop-chop" (in parts), said Brig. Gen. Manuel Bruan, chief of the Philippine Constabulary highway patrol group.

In fact, of the 35 cars reported stolen last month throughout the country, more than half were old cars," Bruan said. The car thieves have grown particularly fond of Toyota and

Lancer cars manufactured from 1976 to 1979, he also said.

"Usually Lancers and Toyotas are the favourite objects of car thieves," Bruan said.

"We have already recovered 11 of these (old car) types and we have also arrested some suspects."

For sometime, the CHPG records showed car theft syndicates' preference for the more expensive cars made in the 80s. But their taste apparently has changed for cheaper, older but nonetheless reliable car types.

Bruan said "old" cars which are in excellent running condition are also perfect getaway vehicles for criminals plying their illicit trade.

The more dilapidated car types are also prized commodities in second-hand junk shops which sell spare parts at half the cost of the brand new items.

Bruan said he has already directed all CHPG operatives and police units involved in anti-carnapping to "closely monitor" junk shops and other stores buying second-hand car parts.



45 senators reprimanded

Members reminded of transparency policy

THE House committee on ethics reprimanded the 45 congressmen who failed to submit their statement of assets and liabilities and business connections which is required of public officials under the constitution.

Rep. Artemio Adasa (LDP, Zamboanga del Norte), committee chairman, issued a memorandum to each of the delinquent congressmen reminding them to submit their statements on or before Aug 21.

But two of the congressmen who were in the list of delinquents, however, clarified that the Office of the Secretary-General made an error for including their names in the list.

Rep. Oscar Orbes (LDP, Pangasinan) said he had already submitted to the OSG his statement last December but it was returned by the office for some corrections.

Rep. Raui Laza (LP, Samar), on the other hand, said he has complied with the law but it was also returned by the OSG because it lacks other details.

"Some of them (congressmen) thought they can just submit a statement of assets and liabilities but that is not sufficient compliance of the ethics law," said Adasa.

Adasa said the committee has been constantly reminding all members of the House about the "transparency policy" of the government.

"We have to be transparent because sometimes, they might be tackling bills of general application but may be affecting their own business," said Adasa.

The list of the delinquent congressman was released by House Secretary-General Quirino Abad Santos early this week.

SPORTS

Injured Austin confronts new challenge

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 26, (Reuters) Since former US Open tennis champion Tracy Austin was nearly killed in a car accident early this month, every day has become a new challenge.

Three weeks after having a bone graft from his hip and surgery on a broken right leg, Austin is feeling more at peace with herself and her accomplishments than ever before.

"The accident has made me appreciate every day," the 26-year-old American said. "Compared to what could have happened, I'm a blessed person."

Austin, driving alone, was hit on August 3 by a young motorist who drove through a red light in Short Hills, New Jersey.

She suffered a bruised heart, a bruised spleen, mild concussion, a broken right

tibia, a damaged knee cartilage and cuts and bruises on her arms and legs.

"When I woke up after the accident I was lying on the cement with my feet still in the car," she recalled. "I remember looking up at the totalled car and screaming. I've had nightmares a couple of times."

Even though Austin is confined to a wheelchair she plans to attend the second week of the US Open where she became

the youngest singles champion in 1979 and won a second title in 1981.

She will then return to her parents' home in the exclusive community of Rolling Hills Estates.

Austin, who forced to quit tennis in 1983 with a back injury, had just returned to the game with the New Jersey stars of the World Team Tennis League when she was hit by the car.



Crenshaw (left) blasts out of a stand trap while Norman chips onto the first green. (Reuters wirephoto).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Federal inquiry

TORONTO, Aug. 26, (Reuters) A federal inquiry into the Canadian Track and Field Association yesterday denied allegations that it ignored evidence about steroid use by athletes. Wilf Wedmann told a federal inquiry he could not act on allegations that Ben Johnson and other Canadian athletes were taking steroids because he never had the evidence, namely, athletes and coaches willing to testify for the record.

Sheehan ahead

LAKE LANIER, Ga., Aug. 26, (Reuters) Patty Sheehan put it together at the Pinecliff Resort course for a six-under-par 66 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead at the halfway mark of the Women's World Championship of Golf.

Barrett ahead

CRANSTON, R.I., Aug. 26, (Reuters) Rookie Tina Barrett shot the best round of her career yesterday to take the first-round lead in the \$150,000 Ocean State Open at the Alpine Country Club.

Excellent round

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Aug. 26, (Reuters) Ted Schulz shot a brilliant seven-under-par 63 yesterday to take a one-shot lead after two rounds of the \$500,000 Chattanooga Classic with a 36-hole score of 111-under-par 138.

Senior golf

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, Aug. 26, (AP) Two-time defending champion Bob Charles and Charles Coody each shot 6-under-par 66s yesterday to share the first-round lead of the \$300,000 Sunwest Bank-Chief Price Senior tournament.

Agassi triumphs

PRINCETON, New Jersey, Aug. 26, (AP) Andre Agassi served all five of his aces in the second set and defeated Shuzo Matsumoto of Japan 6-3, 6-1 in the quarterfinal of the New Jersey Bell Yellow Pages Invitational yesterday.

Bagat banned

MOSCOW, Aug. 26, (Reuters) Shot putter Alexander Bagat has been disqualified from competition for two years for failing a doping test. The International Union of Athletics Federation is failing a doping test. The International Union of Athletics Federation is failing a doping test.

Steroid users

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (AP) More than 50 male athletes who competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics were found to have used anabolic steroids although they tested negative during the Games and were not disqualified. The New York Times reported today.

Title fight

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (Reuters) World heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will probably fight Razor Ruddick of Canada in the defense of his crown, a spokesman for boxing promoter Don King said yesterday. King had been considering James "Buster" Douglas for Tyson's new fight, but spokesman Al Braverman said that Ruddick was now the favorite.

World record

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Aug. 26, (AP) Olga Nazarukina of the Soviet Union set a new junior women's record in the 10,000-metre race at the European Junior Track and Field Championships, the state Tass news agency reported. Nazarukina clocked 32 minutes and 25.75 seconds.

10-round bout

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (AP) James "Buddy" McGirt, former International Boxing Federation junior welterweight title holder, may be undefeated at Madison Square Garden's Fall Forum. But that does not bother Jerry Jacobs, the British Commonwealth champion, at all. McGirt, winner in all of his 20 appearances at the Fall Forum, and Jacobs, of Scotland, meet in a 10-round bout tomorrow afternoon.

Ueda ahead

SEIMACHO, Japan, Aug. 26, (AP) Hiroshi Ueda shot a 70 today and regained the lead with Haruhiko Hironaka entering the final round of the 71st KBC Augusta Golf Tournament.

Algeria win

ANNABA, Algeria, Aug. 26, (AP) Algeria's Rabah Madjer scored in the 56th minute to help Algeria beat the Ivory Coast, 1-0, yesterday and win its group in an African Zone World Cup soccer elimination match.

Top boxer

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 26, (Reuters) The World Boxing Council named American Pernell Whitaker boxer of the month for his points victory over Mexico's Jose Luis Ramirez in the lightweight title fight last Sunday.

1996 Games

ATLANTA, Aug. 26, (AP) Prince Albert of Monaco said that despite Atlanta's recent FBI ranking as No. 1 in violent crimes in the nation, the city stands a good chance of landing the 1996 Olympic Games.

Best score

OSHIKOTO, Japan, Aug. 26, (AP) Akihiro Higashimura set an eagle-par-birdie finish en route to the day's best score of 67 and moved into the second-round lead in the Izumi Ladies Golf Tournament.

Sabatini survives lapse

Navratilova edges Miyagi



Gabriela Sabatini

TORONTO, Aug. 26, (Reuters) Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini survived a second-set lapse against fifth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia yesterday to advance to a semifinals date with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez in the Canadian Open.

Sabatini, the second seed, put her game in order in the final set to prevail over Novotna 6-1 3-6 6-0 in their quarterfinal match in the \$300,000 championships.

The fourth-seeded Sanchez, the French Open champion, used her improved serve and athletic baseline game to power past Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3 6-2.

The other semifinal will have top seed Martina Navratilova going against unseeded Australian Anne Minter, who has not won a set from Navratilova in five previous meetings.

Navratilova struggled to tame her own erratic serve and the stubborn, hard-hitting Japanese qualifier Nana Miyagi, in winning 6-2 3-6 6-2.

Minter used the confidence instilled by her stunning upset of

third-seeded Chris Evert earlier in the week to help her beat West German Sylvia Hanika 6-2 6-3.

Capitalising on the 19-year-old Sabatini's wandering focus, Novotna piled up points with aggressive net play.

But as Novotna began to show signs of fatigue, Sabatini snapped to attention and used her top-spin shots to run the Czechoslovak off the court.

Although she has lost to Sabatini all seven times they've played, the Sanchez is looking forward to the match.

"She has topspin. Her game is good for me. It's not always easy with a player who plays topspin but I'd rather play that than someone who always comes to the net," Sanchez said.

Putting just 55 per cent of her first serves in play, Navratilova lost her serve six times against the spunky Miyagi. From the beginning of the second set until the third game of the final set, she failed to hold serve five straight times.

In mid-match Miyagi, whose 142 ranking will rise sharply after

beating two seeded players to reach the quarters, played smart tennis.

Playing the ball instead of Navratilova's reputation, Miyagi hit out, using her two-handed groundstrokes to either drill return of serve winners or cross court passing shots past Navratilova.

The turning point came in the fourth game of the final set when Navratilova raced across court to get to a drop shot. Scooping the ball up off her shoetops, Navratilova flicked a backhand cross court winner to break Miyagi for a 3-1 lead.

Miyagi, 18, who's been playing all week with a sore back, double faulted on match point.

"If my back wasn't sore, maybe I could have served a little better.... but I am pleased with the way I played. It's my best tournament ever. I really can't believe I got this far," said Miyagi, who upset sixth-seeded Soviet Natalia Zvereva and 12th seed Radka Zrubokova along the way.

Lendl beats Svensson

JERICHO, N.Y., Aug. 26, (Reuters) Ivan Lendl held off a threat from Jonas Svensson of Sweden yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the Challenge Cup tennis tournament.

Lendl, a 6-2 2-6 6-1 winner over the Swede, said he felt ready to pursue his fourth US Open championship in five years when the year's final major tournament begins on Monday.

"I think I'm ready for the Open now," said Lendl, who rested and practiced for five weeks after Wimbledon before returning to the tour to win the Canadian Open last week.

"I've played enough matches. The purpose of this tournament is to get ready for the Open."

Lendl, a finalist in the last seven US Opens, said: "I hit some good shots, even some great shots today. I really enjoyed myself."

Svensson, who won this tournament two years ago, agreed with Lendl. "Ivan definitely is ready. The way he played today, he should be the favourite at the Open," the 22-year-old Swede said.

Lendl, the world number one, said he got lazy in the second set. "I started to confuse myself," he said. "I thought I could win without hitting hard."

Lendl raced to a 4-1 lead in the first set but Svensson used a drop shot winner to break service in the sixth game.

The Czechoslovak then raised his game and won 11 straight points, closing out the first set with two love games and reaching 0-40 against Svensson's service in the first game of the second set.

"If I had won the 12th point we wouldn't be talking about the



Lendl: ready for US Open

Reds lose in first game without Rose

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, (AP) The Cincinnati Reds, playing their first game since manager Pete Rose was banned from baseball for life, lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates 12-3 last night.

Rose, the all-time hits leader, was barred from the game Thursday for having bet on his own team, commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti announced.

A crowd of 25,722 brought only a few reminders of Rose to Riverfront Stadium including a sign that said "Thanks Pete for 4,256," his final hit total. Another sign said No. "14."

Fourteen was Rose's uniform number. It also was the number of hits the Pirates rolled up in the first six innings, on their way to a total of 17.

Interim manager Tommy Helms, who took over after Rose was banished, won loud cheers when he came out of the dugout for the first time — to remove starter Rick Mahler after the Reds fell behind 7-0 in the fourth inning.

Gary Redus, a former Red, hit a single, a double, a triple and a home run in one game. He was the first Pittsburgh player to do so since Mike Easler, on June 12, 1980, in Cincinnati.

Strange drops out

Crenshaw holds on to two-stroke lead

AKRON, Ohio, Aug. 26, (Reuters) Ben Crenshaw was not at his best yesterday but he managed to hold on to a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the million-dollar World Series of Golf on the south course at Firestone Country Club.

Crenshaw led by three after the first 18 holes but a double bogey seven at the second hole led to a round of two-over-par 72 for a total of four-under 136.

Greg Norman of Australia made one of his patented charges and shot a five-under-par 65 for a total of 138. He was tied for second place with British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia, who had a 67, and South African David Frost, who shot 68.

Steve Jones had the low round of the tournament so far — a 63 — to go with his disappointing first-day 76, and was tied with PGA champion Payne Stewart, Larry Mize, Mike Reid and Brian Claar at one-under 139.

Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain had a four-birdie, two-bogey round for a 68 and he was tied for 10th with Paul Azinger and Blaine McCallister at even-par 140.

"I played a mixed bag again today," Crenshaw said. "I played some good holes and I played some off the charts, just awful."

The most "awful" hole was the 497-yard second. Crenshaw hit his third shot 50 yards over the green. His pitch from there hit a tree limb and bounced next to a concession stand. After a drop, his fifth shot was to the edge of the green and his sixth shot was to 12 feet. He finally made a putt for a seven.

Norman, winner of the international last weekend, had six birdies and one bogey. "Today, my concentration was clicking and I had some momentum," he said. "I didn't have any fire in me yesterday (when he shot 73)."

Curtis Strange had to withdraw after nine holes due to a neck injury, which he said he suffered on Thursday morning when turning to answer a telephone in his hotel room. After shooting an opening 76, he tried to play again yesterday, but a 40 on the front side was enough to have him withdraw.

Kasparov outlasts Portisch

SKELLEFTEA, Sweden, Aug. 26, (Reuters) World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union defeated Hungary's Lajos Portisch last evening to take the lead in the World Cup chess tournament after nine rounds.

Kasparov, playing black, outlasted Portisch in 62 moves. He leads with six points, closely followed by four players with 5 1/2 points each.

Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland, although on the defensive and pressed for time, defeated Predrag Nikolic after a blunder by the Yugoslav.

Results of round nine:

Nigel Short (Britain) defeated Rafael Vaganian (Soviet Union) 1-0.

Jaen Ehlvest (Soviet Union) drew with Ulf Andersson (Sweden) 1-1.

Gyula Sax (Hungary) defeated John Nunn (Britain) 1-0.

Garry Kasparov (Soviet Union) defeated Ljos Portisch (Hungary) 1-0.

Valery Salov (Soviet Union) drew with Mikhail Tal (Soviet Union) 1-1.

Yasser Seirawan (United States) defeated Robert Hubner (West Germany) 1-0.

Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) defeated Predrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia) 1-0.

Zoltan Ribli (Hungary) drew with Anatoly Karpov (Soviet Union) 1-1.

Standings after nine rounds:

Kasparov 6, Karpov, Ehlvest, Salov, Short 5 1/2, Portisch, Andersson, Seirawan 5, Sax 4 1/2, Hubner, Nikolic, Ribli, Tal 4, Nunn, Vaganian, Korchnoi 3.

Gjertsen wins second event

ATLANTA, Aug. 26, (Reuters) American Doug Gjertsen, trying to put the past behind him, took a step forward by winning his second individual event yesterday in a dual swimming meet against the Soviet Union.

Gjertsen was sent home from the Seoul Olympics and suspended for three months by United States swimming, the sport's governing body, for taking part in the theft of a ceremonial mask at a downtown hotel.

"I can't change the past but I can learn from the experience," the 22-year-old Gjertsen said after winning the 400 metres freestyle in three minutes 54.48 seconds.

Da Silva runs year's fastest 200 metres

Aouita fails in double world record bid

BRUSSELS, Aug. 26, (UPI) Robson da Silva of Brazil ran the fastest 200 metres in the world this year to score an emphatic win over American Carl Lewis in the Ivo van Damme Grand Prix track and field meet last night.

Da Silva, who took the bronze medal behind Lewis' silver in the Olympic games final last year, clocked a personal best time of 19.96 seconds, 8-100ths faster than he has ever run before.

But Lewis, the 1984 Olympic champion and jointly the second fastest man in history over the distance, was fifth in 20.47 seconds.

"I'm as surprised as anybody about the way I ran," said Lewis. "I just felt flat all the way."

Daniel Sanguma of France finished five metres behind in second place in 20.42 seconds with American Floyd Heard, who along with Lewis helped the Santa Monica Track Club set a world 4x200 metres record in Koblenz Wednesday, third in 20.44.

Roger Kingdom, the Olympic champion and new world record holder, went through the formality of winning the 110 metres hurdles in 13.12 seconds with Seoul silver medalist Colin Jackson of Britain second in 13.21. Americans tonnie Campbell and former record holder Renaldo Nehemiah were third and fourth.

Butch Reynolds also gave a trademark performance winning the 400 metres flat in

44.98 seconds.

Said Aouita meanwhile failed in his attempt to become the first man in 35 years to set a new 1500 metres and mile (1.6 km) world record in the same race.

Aouita, who broke Henry Rono's 11-year-old world 3,000 metres record at Cologne, West Germany, last Sunday, clocked 3 minutes 36.58 at 1,500 metres and 3:50.09 for the mile.

Aouita holds the record for the 1500 (3:29.46) and Britain's Steve Cram the mile (3:46.32).

American Ray Brown and Kenyan Joseph Chesny were the two pacemakers, but Aouita never had much of a chance at either mark on a night when a steady but light rain fell throughout the meet.

Australian John Landy was the last man to set the two world records in the same race back in 1954.

Somalian Abdi Bile, the world 1500 metres champion also had made an attempt on the 1500 metres record but finished outside it in 3:32.96.

Kevin Young, the fastest man over the 400 metres hurdles this season, followed up last week's victory over Olympic champion Andre Phillips in West Berlin by beating him again. Young clocked 48.08 seconds, Phillips, who lost his hurdling rhythm early over the final barrier as he tried to catch young, clocked 48.54.

Olympic champion Paul Ereng won a thrilling race from Kenyan compatriot



Aouita crosses the finish line to win the mile. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cup champion was a distant third in 1:44.84.

Former world 1,500 metres record holder Sydney Maree, the South African-born American, won a superb 5,000 metres from Domingos Castro of Portugal.

Maree took the lead with 650 metres to run and held off Castro's challenge to clock 13:13.84. Castro timed 13:14.41.

Sandra Patrick-Farmer, the fastest woman in the world this year, easily won the women's 400 metres hurdles in the slow time of 55.13 seconds in the damp conditions. Olympic champion Debbie Flintoff-King of Australia, who is clearly far from race fit, struggled home second to last in 57.08.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who has dominated the women's sprints this year, blasted away from the field at the start of the 100 metres to win convincingly in 11.03 seconds, from Pauline Davis of the Bahamas, second in 11.16.

Ottey made it a winning double when she came home ahead of compatriot Grace Jackson, the Olympic silver medalist in 22.21 seconds in the 200 metres. Jackson clocked 22.56 seconds.

American Pattisue Plumer, who dominated the first half of the season's middle distance races, showed she had lost nothing of her early season form with a powerful win in the 5,000 metres, beating Holland's Elly Van Hult in the final few strides to 15:16.80.

Smith hits third ton

Dodemaide slams 80

LONDON, Aug. 26, (Reuters) Tony Dodemaide, omitted from the Australian side currently thrashing England in the Ashes series, hit 80 for Sussex yesterday as widespread rain disrupted the county cricket programme.

Dodemaide held the lower part of the innings together as Sussex took their overnight first innings total of 203 for five to 323 all out on the second day of their four-day match against Gloucestershire.

Earlier opener David Smith, 98 overnight, scored his third century for the county with 115, including 15 boundaries.

Gloucestershire, who managed only 133 in their first innings, were 53 for one when rain and bad light ended play prematurely.

Rain washed out the entire day's play in the Yorkshire-Derbyshire and Lancashire-Surrey clashes and affected each of the other six matches.

The leading championship contenders were all badly affected with only two hours possible in the match between Essex and Northamptonshire, 10 overs in the game between champions Worcestershire and Somerset and 13.1 overs in Middlesex's clash with Nottinghamshire.

In the match at Northampton, the home side, 40 for one overnight in reply to Essex's first innings 324, were 130 for five when the remain-

der of the day's play was washed out.

Essex pacer Neil Foster, a member of the England rebel side to tour South Africa next year, bowled unchanged throughout the morning session to finish with four for 73.

At Chelsterfield: no play today — rain. Yorkshire 136 in 39.5 overs and 39 for one, Derbyshire 102 in 35 overs.

At Old Trafford: no play today — rain. Lancashire 305 in 93.4 overs, Surrey 24 for one after 13 overs.

The following games were interrupted by rain:

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 308 in 107.1 overs (C. Broad 144 R. Elcock four for 63, A. Tufnell four for 72), Middlesex 30 for no wicket after 10 overs.

At Northampton: Essex 324 in 88.2 overs, Northamptonshire 150 for five after 47 overs (A. Fordham 75).

At Worcester: Somerset 300 for eight v Worcestershire.

At Folkestone: Leicestershire 498 in 149.5 overs (C. Lewis 69, P. Whitticase 51), Kent 97 for two after 28 overs (M. Benson 42 not out).

At Swansea: Warwickshire 430 in 125.5 overs (S. Watkin six for 106), Glamorgan 100 for five after 39 overs.

At Hove: Gloucestershire 133 in 44.4 overs and 53 for one, Sussex 323 in 107.1 overs (D. Smith 115, T. Dodemaide 80).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Argentine star

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona will return to Italy on Monday or Tuesday to report back to his Italian soccer club Napoli, his agent said yesterday.

Wrong man

GLASGOW, Aug. 26. (Reuters): The Scottish Football Association (SFA) yesterday lifted an automatic ban on a player sent off for an offence he did not commit. Falkirk's David Beaton was sent off against Hearts on Wednesday but the team's captain Stuart Burgess later confessed he was the culprit in an off-the-ball clash.

Safety duty

ROME, Aug. 26. (AP): About 10,000 policemen will be on duty at Italian soccer stadiums tomorrow to guarantee "safety and peace" in the opening round of the Major League. The Interior Ministry announced yesterday.

Gullit out

MILAN, Italy, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Dutch soccer captain Ruud Gullit had tests in Belgium yesterday for a knee injury that has plagued him since April and European champions AC Milan said he was certain to miss the start of the Italian League season.

W. German soccer

BONN, Aug. 26. (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results yesterday.

FC Homburg	1	Werder B.	1
Nuremberg	3	Fortuna D.	0
Borussia	0	Borussia D.	0
Waldhof M.	1	Bayern Munich	0
Karlsruhe	0	St. Pauli	1
Eintracht F.	2	Bayer U.	1
Cologne	1	Bayer L.	1
Hamburg SV	3	Kaiserslautern	0

Rugby match

CAPE TOWN, Aug. 26. (Reuters): South Africa beat an international XV 20-19 (half-time 9-6) in their rugby union match at Newlands Stadium in Cape Town today.

Rival group

HAMBURG, West Germany, Aug. 26. (UPI): The World League of American Football, due to begin play in Europe and North America in 1991, will not be troubled by a rival group which is set to kick off in eight months. WLAFF president Tex Schramm said today.

German Open

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Jose-Maria Canizares shot a course record-equaling 62 in the third round of the German Open today to put himself in sight of a return to Ryder Cup duty.

First gold

DUISBURG, West Germany, Aug. 26. (AP): Andre Cason gave the United States its first gold medal of the world swimming championships by winning the men's 100-metre dash Saturday.

Cason, the world junior champion, posted a time of 10.29 seconds on a cloudy, cool day. In second-round heats Friday, Cason equalled the games record by running 10.07.

SEA Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug. 26. (AP): Official standings of the nine nations at the end of today's events at the 15th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

Indonesia	73	56	44
Thailand	46	42	45
Malaysia	43	42	52
Philippines	19	27	50
Singapore	18	22	29
Burma	10	9	13
Vietnam	3	11	3
Brunei	0	1	9
Laos	0	0	0

Ericsson leads 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Sweden's Mikael Ericsson led the 1,000 Lakes Motor Rally today after overnight leader Juha Kankkunen and two other top Finns dramatically retired.

Ericsson, in a Mitsubishi, held a seven-second lead over Spain's Carlos Sainz in a Toyota Celica as drivers stopped to regroup after 23 stages of the 43-stage rally.

Behind Sainz were the Mazdas of Finland's Timo Salonen and Mikael Sundstrom. World champion Massimo Biasion of Italy was sixth in his Lancia Delta Integrale.

Ericsson was in fifth place after stage 19, nearly two minutes behind Kankkunen's Toyota.

On the very next stage Kankkunen quit with a fire in his engine compartment. Compatriot Ari Vatanen, third after stage 19 in a Mitsubishi, also gave up with engine failure.

Just a few minutes earlier, six-times winner Markku Alen of Finland, at the time lying second, had retired with engine trouble.

Lancia engineers had increased the car's turbocharger pressure on Friday evening, raising the risk of engine failure, rally organisers said.

If Ericsson holds on to his lead, he will be the first non-Finn to win the 1,000 Lakes since Sweden's Stig Blomqvist in 1971.

Budd signals end to international athletics career

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 26. (Reuters): South African-born athlete Zola Budd put paid to any chance of returning to international sport when she ran in a local road race today.

Budd, 23, made a surprise appearance in a 10-km race in her home town of Bloemfontein.

Orange Free State, a move which means she is barred from competition overseas. She came out of the blue. Not even I knew she was going to run," race organiser Leon Botha, who knows Budd well, told Reuters. Botha said Budd had told him she had

decided only last night to turn up for the race, in which she easily won the women's section.

"We were all shocked and delighted to see Zola," Botha added. "But this means she will never, ever be allowed to run overseas again."

Budd returned to her homeland in May last year after intense pressure from anti-apartheid lobbyists who charged that she had not forsaken her South African links. One of the accusations was that she had taken part in a race in South Africa the previous year, a claim she disputed.

As a teen-age running prodigy, Budd escaped the sports boycott of South Africa by taking British citizenship just in time to compete in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Games ended in disaster for Budd when she collided with American Mary Decker in the 3,000 metres.

After returning to South Africa she married a local liquor store owner, Mike Pieterse, and last June indicated she would not return to Britain to run. For several years Budd resisted pressure to denounce apartheid publicly, saying she resented being used as a political pawn.

Millwall and Chelsea win

Derby take United to task

LONDON, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Millwall and Chelsea emerged as the early front runners in the English First Division as their more fancied rivals faltered today.

Millwall won the battle between two of last year's title contenders with a lone goal to beat Nottingham Forest while Chelsea romped to a 4-0 success over Sheffield Wednesday.

Three of their main rivals, Liverpool, Norwich and Queen's Park Rangers drew, while Manchester United went down 2-0 at Derby.

Chelsea sprinted into a 3-0 lead by halftime at Stamford Bridge and a Kevin McAlister header in the second half condemned Wednesday to their third defeat in a row.

Millwall's winner came nine minutes from the end through Jimmy Carter to maintain Forest's record of never having won at the Den.

It continued a dismal start for Brain Clough's team who have not won in their first three matches.

Wednesday's hopes were dashed in a six-minute spell during which Chelsea scored three times.

Blunders by Alan Harper gave Chelsea their first two goals.



Sheffield Wednesday's Dalian Atkinson (left) challenges Chelsea's Kenneth Mokuu for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graham Roberts netted from a penalty after Tony Dorogio was felled by a challenge from the Sheffield defender and two min-

utes later ran the ball into his own net from Kerry Dixon's cross. McAlister then rose above the defenders to head home the third

from a Peter Nicholas corner. Wednesday played with a little more purpose after the break but were unable to find a way past the home side's well-organised back four.

McAlister put matters beyond doubt in the 56th minute when he rounded Chris Turner before tapping in from six metres.

The all-important goal which preserved Millwall's unbeaten start to the season and put them on seven points alongside Chelsea was well deserved after they had dominated much of the match.

Results

English Division One	Results
Arsenal	0
Aston Villa	1
Chelsea	4
Crystal P.	0
Derby	2
Everton	3
Luton	0
Manchester C.	1
Millwall	1
Norwich	0
Sheff. Wed.	0
Southampton	0
Tottenham	1
Wolves	1
W. Ham	3
Bradford	2
Sunderland	1
Middlesbrough	0

English Division Three	Results
Bolton	0
Brentford	1
Bristol City	1
Manchester	0
Nottingham	0
Sheff. Wed.	2
Swansea	1
Tranmere	3
Walsall	2
Wigan	0
Reading	1
Stockport	0
Hereford	0
Chesham	4
Grimsby	0
Exeter	0
Scarborough	4
Rochdale	0
Crewe	1
Reading	1

English Division Four

English Division Four	Results
Aldershot	0
Barnley	0
Cambridge	0
Carlisle	4
Colchester	2
Doncaster	0
Harrogate	0
Maidstone	4
Scunthorpe	0
Torquay	0
Wrexham	3
York	1
Peterborough	0

Scottish Premier Division

Scottish Premier Division	Results
Aberdeen	0
Celtic	1
Dundee U.	2
Hibernian	1
Motherwell	3
St. Mirren	1

Scottish Division One

Scottish Division One	Results
Airdrie	0
Albion	1
Ayr	0
Clydebank	3
Clydebank	1
Partick	2
St. Johnstone	2
Forfar	1

Scottish Division Two

Scottish Division Two	Results
Arbroath	2
Berwick	1
Cowdenbeath	0
East Fife	1
Stirling	1
Stirling	1
Montrose	0
Queen of S.	2
Queen's Park	1
Kilmarnock	0

Longo wins

4th road race

CHAMBERY, France, Aug. 26. (UPI): Jeanie Longo of France culminated her domination of women's cycling by pulling away from a stellar field with ease to win her fourth consecutive world road race today at the World Cycling Championships.

Longo, who also was victorious in the pursuit and points race last week during the track portion of the championships in Lyon, completed the six-lap, 75-kilometre course in 1 hour, 56 minutes and 41 seconds.

Longo's heir-apparent and competitor, 19-year-old Catherine Marsal, outstripped Italian veteran Maria Casalis to finish second, 4 minutes and 5 seconds behind the winner.

Four riders each from France and Italy finished among the top 15. Cansins, 40, earned her second third-place road race finish and has also finished second twice. American Inga Thompson was fourth, 7:29 behind Longo.

England 124 for six
Rain and Gower hold up Aussies

LONDON, Aug. 26. (Reuters): Captain David Gower stood between Australia and another total English humiliation at the end of third day of the sixth and final cricket Test on Saturday.

When match ended 100 minutes early because of rain and bad light, England were 124 for six in reply to Australia's first innings total of 468 with Gower on 43 and Derek Pringle on six.

England began the day on one for one and lurched to 89 for five at lunch as once again their techniques were exposed by pacemen Terry Alderman, Geoff Lawson and Merv Hughes.

Opener John Stephenson and Mike Atherton negotiated the early onslaught but when Hughes replaced Lawson he got Atherton (12) to edge a ball to wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

Robin Smith, one of the few England successes in the series, looked in good form hitting two fours, but he then fell for 11 to a dreadful stroke across the line of a Lawson ball.

Gower joined Stephenson and was at his elegant best, flicking and gliding the ball with superb timing.

But then in the space of four balls Alderman had Stephenson, on his Test debut, caught by Steve Waugh for 25 and trapped David Capel lbw for four.

After lunch Jack Russell, caught behind for 12, became Alderman's fourth victim of the innings and 38th of the series, just for short of his own record for an Ashes series, set in 1981.

Rain held up play for 20 minutes during the afternoon session and returned again after the teams came off 10 minutes early before tea because of the light. But were not able to go back on again.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 468 (D.

Jones 122, A. Border 76, M. Taylor 71 D. Pringle four for 70)

ENGLAND first innings (overnight one for one)

G. Gooch lbw b Alderman	0
J. Stephenson c Waugh b Alderman	25
M. Atherton c Healy b Hughes	12
R. Smith b Lawson	11
D. Gower not out	43
D. Capel lbw b Alderman	4
J. Russell c Healy b Alderman	12
D. Pringle not out	6
Extras (lb-3 w-1 nb-7)	11
Total (for six wickets)	124
Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-28 3-47 4-80 5-84 6-98	
To bat: A. Iglesden, G. Small, N. Cook	
Bowling to date: Alderman 14-2-34-4, Lawson 15-3-50-1, Hughes 9-2-37-1	



Soccer violence

Forty-five people were injured in Athens, Greece, when soccer fans attending an exhibition match at Athens Olympic Stadium attacked each other on Friday, then united to battle not police who tried to separate them, police said. They said the injured included 14 police officers, two of whom were hospitalized. One had been injured on the head with a block of wood. All the injured fans were treated and released, they said. The violence broke out at 11:10 pm local time (20:10 GMT) in the 65th minute of a match between AEK of Athens and Olympiakos of Piraeus, last season's two top teams. Small clashes between supporters of the two teams had followed each time the two teams scored. Above: one of the injured policemen being taken to the hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Schwantz best in practice

BRNO, Czechoslovakia, Aug. 26. (Reuters): American Kevin Schwantz clinched his ninth pole position of the season today in final practice for tomorrow's Czechoslovak Motorcycling Grand Prix.

Schwantz, 25, pushed his works Suzuki round the windswept 5.39 km track in two minutes 03.167 seconds.

He resisted a last-ditch attack by California triple world champion Eddie Lawson on a Honda, edging his compatriot by only 0.213 seconds.

Schwantz, the find of the season, took exceptional risks in the dying minutes of practice, his machine sliding wildly on the last corner of his fastest lap.

But the flamboyant Texan said: "I don't think that was anything especially dangerous. It was a bit risky but that's my normal style of riding."

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